AMATEUR RADIO

MAY 1949

JOURNAL OF THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

FOR THE EXPERIMENTER & RADIO ENTHUSIAST

6D.

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See Below and Page 14

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AMATEUR RADIO

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EDITORIAL

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AMATEUR ADVISORY COMMITTEES

In all spheres of life there is some system of maintaining orderly conduct, and in this regard Amateur Radio is no exception. We could recall the statement by the noted American statesman Abraham Lincoln who once said, "Government of the people, by the people and for the people."

The Amateurs in Australia are able to govern themselves by the Amateur Advisory Committees which have been created in each State and under its control by the Postmaster General's Department and, as the name implies, the Committee functions in an advisory rather than a disciplinary capacity.

So that every licenced Amateur may have representation on this Committee its membership is composed of W.I.A. and non-W.I.A. personnel.

Each Committee, with the authority of the Department, whenever necessary, issues a notification to any licensee who has transgressed by a breach of the regulations or whose emissions are considered to be below the standard required by the Department. In cases where this notification is ignored the Committee refer the matter to the Department.

In instances where it is necessary to issue a "please explain" the recipient is asked to accept it in the "amateur" spirit and make endeavours to remedy the trouble by consulting the Handbook especially prepared for the Amateur's guidance so that he may become more familiar with the regulations.

You, no doubt, will appreciate that the task of the observers is one requiring mature judgment and it should be understood that a "please explain" is not forwarded as a result of personal animosity. The Chairman, who is a Departmental representative, ensures that no such discrimination is shown by any member of the Committee towards any Amateur licensee.

The value of the activities of these Committees is fully appreciated in the work which they are doing in assisting to help maintain good operating practices, particularly in the heavily congested bands. Certain of this congestion is caused by key clicks and thumps, spurious emissions which include harmonic radiations and splatter. See that you, as an Amatur, are doing your share by emitting a good clean signal. An application of the golden rule will help clean up the bands.

Besides the foregoing there are other breaches which are committed primarily through thoughtlessness. Amongst these are out of band operation and third party messages. These are viewed very seriously by the Department.

Amateur Radio has been in existence for the past 36 years —what a wonderful record to be proud of. Are you doing your share to maintain this good record? Play the game, please.

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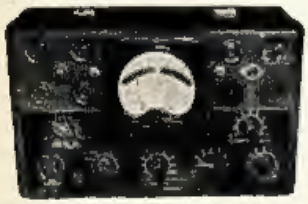

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Using the BC375E Transmitter Coil Units

BY J. DUNCAN,* VK3VZ

The BC375E Transmitter was used in great numbers during the war for communication between Liberator aircraft and ground stations, and for various other jobs where the U.S.A. Army required a medium power transmitter with an input to the power amplifier of about 150 watts.

Frequency changing was accomplished by means of plug in coil units, which contained the necessary condensers and inductances for coverage between 150 and 12,500 Kc. and it is these plug in coil units which we are to deal with in this article.

For those who are interested in the conversion of the whole transmitter in its entirity, it is suggested that they study the excellent article in "QST," December 1946, page 38.

Before the coil units are discussed it will be necessary to have a brief picture of the r.f. line-up of the transmitter.

The transmitter consists of only two stages on the r.f. side, a 211 master oscillator, driving another 211 as a power amplifier. This latter stage being modulated by Class B 211s. The r.f. side being shown in the functional diagram Fig. 1. The master oscillator is a plate tuned Hartley, the grid drive for the p.a. being obtained by tapping off the oscillator tank as shown, and feeding it via the blocking condenser to the p.a. grid. Neutralisation in the p.a. is achieved by taking another tap off the master oscillator tank, the same number of turns on the other side of the oscillator h.t. connection, and feeding it back to the plate of the p.a., neutralisation being achieved by adjustment of the variable condenser located in this lead. It will be seen that as h.t. is present on both the master oscillator and power amplifier tanks, they will be insulated from ground, which may be handy in some of the applications to which the coil units could be put.

COIL UNITS There are seven plug in coil units to each transmitter, the one covering the lower frequency range 200-500 Kc. not being of much use in our case. This unit is the TU26B, the other six units being numbered TU5B to TU10B respectively.

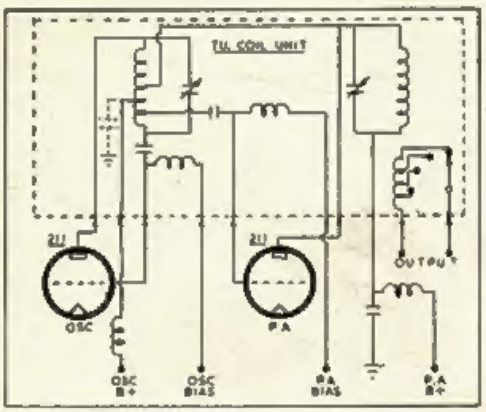
Each of these units is housed in a duralumin case 16¾" long, 7-15/16" high, and 7-13/16" deep, finished in black crackle. This case is only used to protect the coil box when not in use, the inner case and front panel being removed by releasing snap fasteners.

The inner case is divided into two equal sections, the left hand section housing the master oscillator inductance and condenser, and the right hand compartment, the power amplifier inductance, condenser, and ceramic tapping switch for adjustment of loading to the separate antenna loading unit. Also in the master oscillator section is the neutralising condenser, r.f. chokes, and by-pass condensers.

The master oscillator condenser is constructed of Invar to reduce capacity changes due to temperature variations, is double spaced, and mounted on ceramic blocks—a beautiful condenser for a v.f.o. This condenser is driven through a ceramic flexible coupling, from a 50 : 1 worm drive. The drum dial is graduated 0 to 100 degrees for a complete revolution, and the scale on the condenser shaft 0 to 25 for a half revolution, giving 2,500 degrees for the full sweep of the condenser. This dial mechanism is spring loaded, has no backlash, and also has a dial lock incorporated.

The master oscillator inductance is tension wound on a ceramic ribbed former, and is fitted with a temperature compensating device inside the former. The neutralising condenser in this compartment is also double spaced, and insulated from the chassis, and is fitted with an insulated knurled disk, which can be set and locked, by removing the calibration chart on the front panel.

The various by-pass condensers in this section are all 3,000 volt types of excellent manufacture.



The right hand compartment contains the p.a. tank circuit and antenna switch, the condenser being double spaced, ceramic insulated, and in all units except the TU8B, which has a smaller value of capacitance, can be changed to split stator by cutting the stator bar on each side of the centre plate with a metal fretsaw. The centre stator plate can then be removed. The condenser is driven through a ceramic flexible coupler by a National type velvet vernier movement of about 5 : 1 ratio, this drive being fitted with a lock. The p.a. inductance is wound on a ribbed ceramic former, and has housed inside it the output coupling coil, which is taken through a heavily constructed ceramic tapping switch of six positions.

All connections to the remainder of the transmitter from the m.o. and p.a. compartments are brought out to a series of sockets located on an insulated strip running the full length of the coil box.

In the TU5B and TU6B Units frequency coverage is obtained in four and two steps respectively. This is done by switching fixed capacities across the master oscillator and power amplifier inductances. These ceramic switches being ganged by a metal bar. Each of the inductances switched into circuit in the master oscillator compartment, has a special temperature compensating condenser across it. These condensers consist of two round disks which act as the plates, the distance between them being varied by a bi-metal strip.

SUGGESTIONS FOR USE From the above description it can be seen that the components are of particularly high quality and ideal for our use, and it is difficult to suggest any one particular use for a unit of this kind, as no two Amateurs think alike in that regard, however several ideas come to mind, and are given as a guide.

Firstly the unit can be dismantled for its components which are of very high quality and cannot be obtained elsewhere. The outer dural case only needs a front panel and you have a nice cabinet for receiver, v.f.o., etc. The ceramic coil forms, high voltage fixed condensers and switches all have places in the Ham shack.

Secondly by utilising the master oscillator condenser, and inductance in its existing position, and arranging a small chassis for oscillator and isolator tubes in the left hand compartment, removing all components in the right hand compartment, and installing a buffer amplifier and power supply, the unit can be made into a very nice v.f.o. If an external power supply is to be used, the inductance and condenser originally used for the p.a. could be used for the plate circuit of the buffer amplifier.

Because of the high quality of the condenser and inductance, the "Clapp" oscillator is particularly suited to this unit.

Fourthly the TU5B which has a range of 1.5 to 3 Mc. would make an ideal frequency meter and is discussed in detail later in the article. Because of its 2 : 1 frequency range, complete coverage of the short wave spectrum up to the highest harmonic audible on a receiver is obtainable.

To determine the bandspread, and capacities required to bring the various units into the Amateur bands, an oscillator and isolator stage was built up, the oscillator being the familiar electron coupled type. In all tests the frame of the oscillator condenser was grounded,

* Technical Editor, 23 Parkside Ave., Balwyn, Victoria.

and the taps on the inductance, other than the centre one, were removed. The remaining tap was used for the cathode. The following data was obtained, and it should be noted that the values of capacity do not apply to the "Clapp" oscillator, but only to the electron coupled circuit, used for the tests.

TU5B.—Range 1.5-3 Mc. Osc. cond. 20-135 pF, p.a. cond. 20-156 pF.
Remarks.—This unit was not available for tests.

TU6B.—Range 3-4.5 Mc. in two steps; (1) 2.85-3.65 Mc., (2) 3.45-5.2 Mc. Osc. cond. 15-75 pF., p.a. cond. 19-116 pF.
Remarks.—No change in oscillator fixed capacities necessary, only necessary to disconnect fixed capacity connected to cathode tap of inductance.
Bandspread on 3.5 to 4 Mc.—925°.

TU7B.—Range 4.5-6.2 Mc. Osc. cond. 23-111 pF., p.a. cond. 19-116 pF.
Remarks.—Parallel capacity required to tune 3.5 Mc. band, 50 pF. zero drift, and 3-30 pF. air trimmer.
Bandspread on 3.5 to 4 Mc.—1471°.

TU8B.—Range 6.2-7.7 Mc., osc. cond. 14-66 pF., p.a. cond. 15-81 pF.
Remarks.—No alterations required, although 3-30 pF. air trimmer could be added to bring 7 Mc. band to low end of scale, thereby increasing bandspread. P.A. cond. not suitable for alteration to split stator, (all other ranges suitable). Temperature stability excellent.
Bandspread on 7 Mc. band—183°.

TU9B.—Range 7.7 to 10 Mc., osc. cond. 15-77 pF., p.a. cond. 19-116 pF.
Remarks.—Parallel capacity required to tune 7 Mc. band, 3-30 pF. air trimmer. Remove 400 pF. fixed condenser between cathode tap and ground.
Bandspread on 7 Mc. band—281°.

TU10B.—Range 10-12.5 Mc., osc. cond. 14-62 pF., p.a. cond. 19-116 pF.
Remarks.—Parallel capacity required to reach 7 Mc. band 100 pF. zero drift, and 3-30 air trimmer. Remove 400 pF. condenser from cathode tap to ground.
Bandspread on 7 Mc. band—512°.

General.—The value of the neutralising condenser in all ranges is 8-26 pF.

Any of the v.f.o. circuits described in "Amateur Radio" could be built into one of these units, and if the normal electron coupled oscillator circuit is used a suitable circuit would be the one described in "Amateur Radio," August 1947, which gives details of the method for locating the cathode tap for voltage stability, quite an important adjustment in an oscillator of this type. If a "Clapp" oscillator is used some adjustment may be necessary to the inductance to locate the Amateur bands correctly, as it is not permissible to use fixed condensers across the inductance in this oscillator.

All screws in these units have been fixed in with an adhesive, which can be softened with paint thinner thereby making them easy to remove.

The condenser which it is necessary to remove, between centre tap and ground, is shown dotted in Fig. 1. Obviously with one side of the inductance grounded, this capacity will be connected between the cathode tap and ground of the electron coupled oscillator.

Finally the following articles describing various conversions possible with these units, are listed below.

1. "What about the BC375E7," "QST," December 1946, page 38 .
2. "A surplus parts Bandswitching Transmitter," "QST," September 1948, page 11; Part 2, "QST," October 1948.
3. "Transitron V.F.O. Unit," Short Wave magazine, June 1948, page 235.
4. "TU5B as Frequency-checked V.F.O. Driver," Short Wave magazine, page 464.
5. "TU5B as TU5B," Short Wave Magazine, November 1948, page 624.

A High Stability Frequency Meter

BY R. HIGGINBOTHAM,* VK3RN

One of the most essential pieces of equipment necessary in the Amateur shack, and one which is required by the P.M.G., is a good, stable frequency meter. With the great popularity of v.f.o. operation these days, an accurate means of checking the frequency transmitted is imperative, and even where crystal control is used, it is necessary to check the frequency of crystals to see that they fall within the Amateur bands. It is also a great help in finding a station who finds it necessary to change frequency. Imagine the saving in time if you can use your frequency meter to narrow down the field of search to a few kilocycles, instead of searching aimlessly up and down the band.

Although this article is written around one of the BC375E coil units described elsewhere in this magazine, with a little extra work and careful adjustments, especially that of temperature compensation, a similar frequency meter could be built up using some of those good parts that are lying around the shack.

After viewing the TU5B tuning unit from the BC375E, the idea came to mind that a stable frequency meter could be constructed, using the oscillator tuning components, and with the dial capable of being read to one part in 2,500, quite a high degree of accuracy could be obtained, especially as the 1.5 to 3 Mc. range is covered in four steps. Further thought revealed that by removing all the p.a. tuning parts, there would be sufficient room in the p.a. compartment to include the necessary valves and power supply.

Upon laying out the parts it was found that there was ample room, so it was decided to add an electron eye and crystal, also a means of modulation, to make the frequency meter more versatile. These two units were added, and during the process of testing, it was realised that the electron eye only gave one check point over the whole range of the meter, which was 2,500 Kc. with the disposals crystal used. As the meter had four switched ranges, this meant that some of the ranges would not have a check point.

The system used in a commercial frequency meter came to mind. Why not replace the electron eye with a straight crystal oscillator? This was done, and resulted in a large number of check points being obtained throughout the four ranges from 1.5 to 3 Mc., due to the beating of the fundamental and harmonics of the two oscillators.

CIRCUIT The final set-up is shown in the schematic diagram. A 6SJ7 is used as an electron coupled oscillator, utilising the orginal capacity and inductance, dial movement, etc. The output from this oscillator feeds to the output terminal, and also the grid of the 6K8 mixer. The triode section of the 6K8 is connected in a conventional crystal oscillator circuit, with a slug tuned broadcast coil ("Aegis" osc. M11 with plate coil removed) in the plate circuit of the oscillator tuned to the frequency of the crystal, in this case 2,500 Kc. This crystal was used simply because it was easier to get than a 1,000 Kc. crystal, and apart from the disadvantage of not providing band edge markers, does the job just as well, and at much less cost.

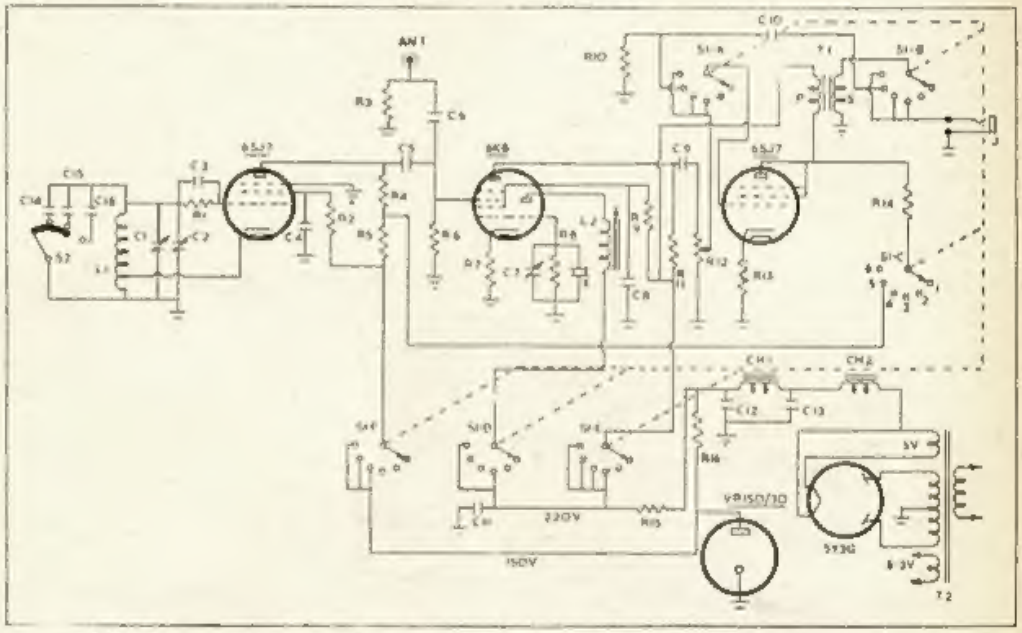
The output of the 6K8 mixer feeds into a triode connected 6SJ7 which serves the dual purpose of audio amplifier for normal frequency meter operation, and audio oscillator for modulation purposes.

A function switch is used to change the circuit for the functions required, and consists of three banks of two poles with six positions. Although a six position switch is used—to correspond with similar markings on the front panel of the old antenna coupling switch—only four are used. The six positions operate as follows:—

1. Warm up—all filaments on.
2. Warm up—all filaments on.
3. Crystal—Crystal oscillator only.
4. Operate—E.C.O. only.
5. Modulate—E.C.O. amplitude modulated by 6SJ7 audio oscillator.
6. Check—E.C.O. and Crystal on, 6SJ7 connected as audio amplifier.

The transformer T1 is an ordinary 3 : 1 interstage job, which happened to be on hand. If the audio oscillator fails to work when switched to position 5, reverse the connections to either the primary or secondary. The frequency of the audio note is controlled by the condenser C10, smaller values raising the pitch.

The power supply is conventional, with the voltage regulator controlling the voltage to all essential points. A two section filter with high value of filter capacity ensures that the note will be clean.



C1—Original osc. tuning condenser.
C2—5 pF. variable (Corrector).
C3—15 pF.
C4—0.001 uF.
C5—50 pF.
C6—25 pF.
C7—15 pF. variable trimmer.
C8—0.1 uF.
C9—0.02 uF.
C10—0.01 uF.
C11—0.1 uF.
C12, C13—16 uF. electrolytics.
C14, C15, C16—Existing condensers in coil unit.

R1—250,000 ohm ½ watt.
R2—10,000 „ ½ „
R3—5,000 „ ½ „
R4—50,000 „ ½ „
R5—20,000 „ ½ „
R6—500,000 „ ½ „
R7—150 „ 1 „
R8—1 megohm ½ watt.
R9—10,000 ohm ½ watt.
R10—50,000 „ ½ „
R11—50,000 „ ½ „
R12—500,000 ohms pot.
R13—1,000 ohms 1 watt.
R14—20,000 „ ½ „
R15—2,500 „ 20 „
R16—7,500 „ 20 „
L1—Original oscillator coil.
L2—Aegis broadcast osc. coil (M11) with plate winding removed.
CH1, CH2—6 H. 60 Ma. Rola chokes.
T1—Standard audio transformer.
T2—385-0-385 v., 60 Ma., 5v., 6.3 v. transformer.
J—Phone jack.
Sw1A-F—3 bank, 2 pole, 6 position switch.
Sw2—Existing band switch in coil unit.
X—Crystal, 2.5 Mc.

* 43 Eleanor St., Ashburton, E.13, Vic.

TEMPERATURE COMPENSATION The present oscillator inductance has an inductance loop inside the former which is varied axially by two metal rods, one constructed of a metal having a low co-efficient of expansion, and the other a high co-efficient of expansion, thereby varying the inductance with a change of temperature.

A small additional amount of temperature compensation was found necessary, and a negative co-efficient condenser was connected across the tuned circuit. A suitable condenser is made by Ducon, and is a ceramic 3-30 pF. type, with the plates silver sprayed onto the ceramic. The type should be the N500, the one marked N.P.O. is a zero drift and is not suitable. The capacity of the negative co-efficient condenser should be increased in steps, and the lumped capacity decreased in the remainder of the circuit, until correct compensation is obtained. If the above type of condenser is not obtainable a fixed ceramicon of 50 or 100 pF. (N750) in series with an air trimmer will also serve the purpose.

The e.c.o. and crystal should be made to beat preferably on about the 1.875 Mc. check point, and temperature compensation adjusted there, this will ensure that the greatest stability will be in the Amateur bands where it is most needed.

A large number of check points are audible throughout the range 1.5 to 3 Mc. covered by the meter, but only the main ones are used. When the meter is calibrated they should be noted in a similar manner to the BC221 Frequency Meter.

CONSTRUCTION All components in the p.a. section were removed, and also those in the oscillator compartment except the variable condenser, inductance, range switch, and temperature compensated condensers controlled by this switch. Some of the screws holding the components are glued into position and can be removed by softening the adhesive with paint thinner.

The height of the new chassis fitted to the p.a. section must be governed by the components used. In the Writer's case the function switch (which replaced the antenna output switch) was mounted, and the chassis then placed in position so that there was sufficient clearance between the two. Another point to watch is that there is still enough room above the chassis for the valves. Metal valves were used for obvious reasons. The VR150/30 regulator tube rises above the rear wall by about half an inch, so the perforated metal cover was cut to allow the valve to project. When the unit is placed in its case there is still clearance between the top of the regulator and the case.

The oscillator valve socket is mounted on the partition wall, and the valve protrudes above the chassis in the old p.a. compartment. The 6K8, 6SJ7, and crystal are mounted vertically in front of the power transformer, with the regulator tube and rectifier to the right of the power transformer, and in front of the latter two tubes are placed the audio transformer and the crystal oscillator coil.

The antenna terminal is mounted at the top-centre of the front panel, with the phone jack in line at the bottom of the panel. The corrector condenser is located in the bottom of the oscillator section, this condenser being used to bring the crystal check points to the predetermined dial reading.

CALIBRATION Calibrating the frequency meter is best done by using a frequency divider giving 10 Kc. points. If the output of the frequency meter is tuned in on a receiver at five times the fundamental, 7.5 to 15 Mc., and beat against the 10 Kc. points at this frequency, readings will be obtained every 2 Kc. on the fundamental. A calibration book can then be drawn up, and the crystal check points noted at the bottom of each page.

Alternatively a graph could be prepared covering the four ranges, and the crystal check point readings listed.

With due care in construction and adjustment of this frequency meter, extremely accurate results can be obtained, which will be more than ample for our requirements, and you will have virtually "the poor man's Bendix."

The writer wishes to thank Mr. J. Duncan (VK3VZ) and Mr. J. Groves for their assistance and suggestions in the conversion of this tuning unit.

IONOSPHERIC PREDICTIONS FOR THE AMATEUR BANDS

MAY, 1949

The accompanying charts have been prepared by the Ionospheric Prediction Service of the Commonwealth Observatory. The first set of the series was published in the November, 1948, issue of this magazine, together with an article explaining the nature of the forecasts and how to use them. Nine of the charts, prefixed by the letter "C" for Canberra, refer to forecasts for the South-Eastern Australian States. The remainder, prefixed by the letter "P" for Perth, are for Western Australia.

These charts refer to the following world zones:—

Zone	Region	Terminal
1	Western Europe	London
2	Mediterranean	Cairo
3	N.-West America	San Francisco
3a	N.-East America	New York
4	Central America	Barbados
5	South Africa	Johannesburg
6	Far East	Manila

The forecasts have actually been prepared for point-to-point circuits between either Canberra or Perth and the overseas terminals mentioned in the above table. It is, however, to be expected that the charts will provide an approximate indication of ionospheric conditions for all Amateur contacts from South-Eastern Australia and from Western Australia to the various world zones. No forecasts are given from Perth to zones Z2 and Z4 for the current month. Chart P-Z2 would be essentially similar to P-Z1 while chart P-Z4 would be unreliable due to auroral activity in high northern latitudes.

USE OF CHARTS

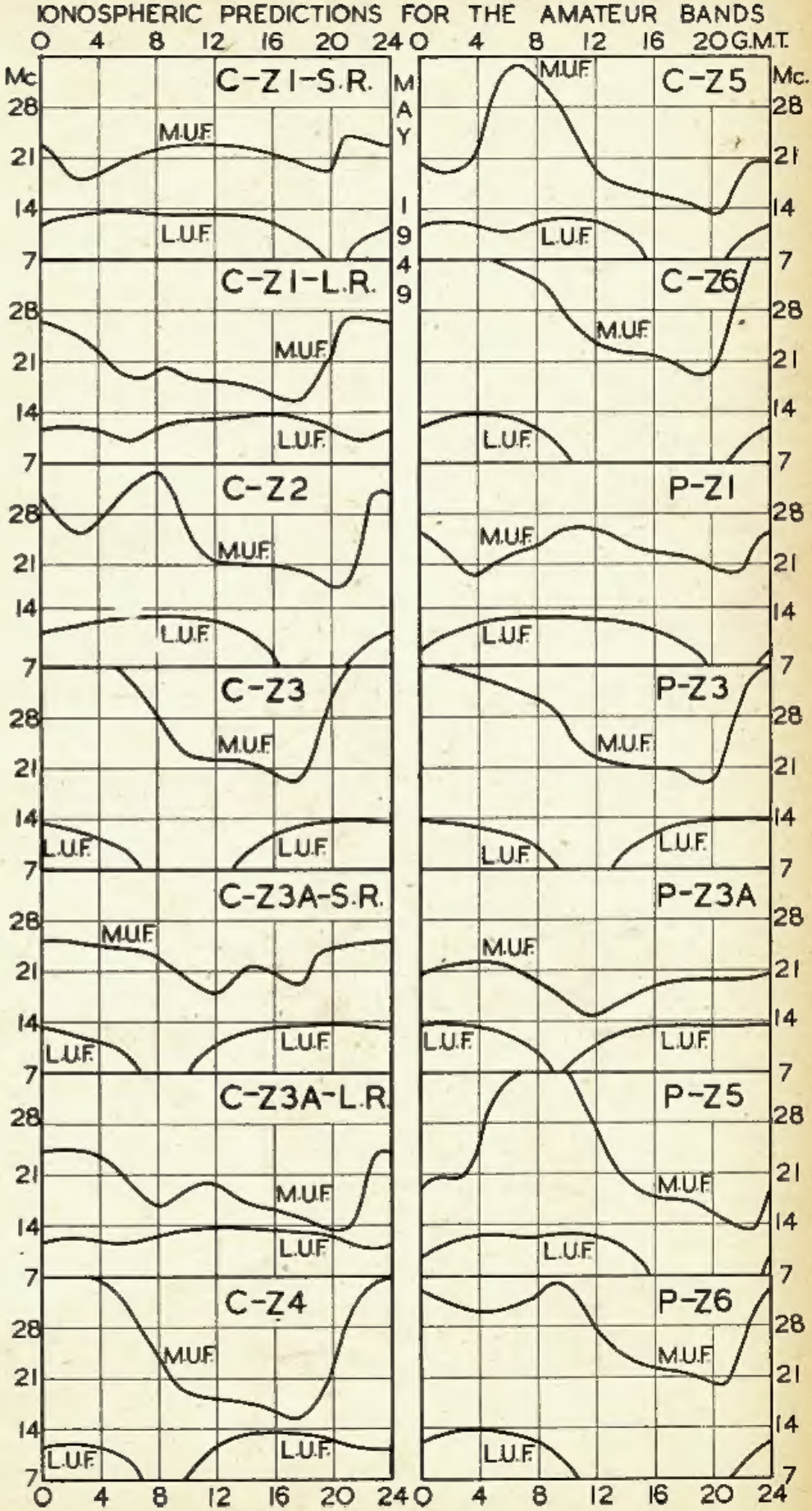
All that is necessary in using the charts is to select a time (G.M.T.) during which a specified Amateur band frequency is below the maximum usable frequency (m.u.f.) of the F region of the ionosphere but above the lowest useful frequency (l.u.f.) for the desired contact. In two cases, zones 1 and 3a, it is necessary to consult both the short-route (s.r.) chart and the following long-route (l.r.) chart.

QUIZ

The Prediction Service welcomes comments on the accuracy of its predictions. In particular answers to the following questions on the Canberra-Far East circuit for May would be useful:—

1. Was the 28 Mc. band available from a few hours before midnight to a few hours before noon G.M.T.?
2. Were conditions noisy on 14 Mc. for several hours in the early morning, but good for the rest of the Greenwich day?
3. Were best conditions experienced on 7 Mc. from 11 hours to 21 hours G.M.T.?

Answers to the Quiz should be sent to the W.I.A. and should, if possible, refer to consistent results obtained on the majority of days in the month.



Results of Frequency Measuring Contests

The following are the results of the Frequency Measuring Contest, held on 25th March and 1st April:—

1st Prize—VK3BB A. E. Budge, 33 Papyrus Street, Morewell, Vic. (£3 order for radio gear).

2nd Prize—VK3YS F. G. Bail, 62 Shannon Street, Box Hill (£2 order for radio gear).

Special Prize for best use of home-built equipment—VK3ACM C. R. Mackenzie, 34 Orange Gve., Camberwell.

The full list of entrants, in order of accuracy are appended, the second figure being the average error in cycles per second. The figure in brackets is the number of frequencies submitted by the Competitor.

As was expected commercial frequency meters were very much to the fore, BC221s being used by competitors in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th, 8th, 10th, and 15th places. VK2RA used a commercial permability tuned v.f.o. which was the l.f. unit of the AT13 transmitter, and calibrated it against a 200 Kc. crystal oscillator. VK2QL hand calibrated an SCR211 and used it to win 5th place.

The most meritorious use of home-built equipment was judged to be VK3ACM, whose equipment was a home-built v.f.o. (e.c.o. 6SJ7, 1852 untuned class A amplifier, with a regulated power supply). Ten entries were submitted by this entrant, and his average error was 189 c/s.

VK5RR had an unusual set up, to quote: "Home constructed receiver, permanently tuned to 5KA at 1200 Kc., single tube v.f.o. with L/C constants at 50 Kc., adjusted exactly to this frequency by zero beat with 5KA at its 24th harmonic, and a hetrodyne frequency meter on the broadcast band which can be corrected at any time by zero beat with 5KA, the 6th harmonic of which is 7200 Kc., with check points by means of the 50 Kc. standard at 7150, 7100, 7050, and 7000 Kc."

The remaining entrants' home-built equipment in brief was:—

VK2GU.—Home-built frequency meter, with 200 Kc. crystal, and 20 Kc. multi-vibrator.

VK3XB.—Home constructed frequency meter using single 1D8GT with pentode as 3.5 Mc. band osc., triode audio amp.

VK2ZC.—100 Kc. oscillator, 10 Kc. multi-vibrator, and calibrated b.f.o. oscillator to interpolate 10 Kc. spots.

VK3ADF and VK3ADG used Class C Wavemeters. VK3GS used a BC348 receiver calibrated against 100 Kc. crystal in Hammurlund Frequency Oscillator Unit.

As will be seen from the results, 15 of the 17 entrants obtained an accuracy of under 400 cycles which is excellent measuring, and the entry of VK6DD who measured all 10 frequencies and had an error of only 286 cycles was remarkable.

For the information of entrants, the frequencies given by the Standard Frequency Service are appended, and the Judges wish to thank all concerned for their entries, and especially to the Measuring Service which co-operated so fully.

DETAILED RESULTS OF CONTEST

Call Sign	Error in c/s.	Frequencies Submitted
1—VK3BB	121	(7)
2—VK3YS	141	(5)
3—VK3PW	146	(5)
4—VK2RA	157	(8)
5—VK2QL	170	(5)
6—VK3ACM	189	(10)
7—VK2ZB	197	(10)
8—VK3AWW	220	(4)
9—VK5RR	235	(5)
10—VK6DD	286	(10)
11—VK2GU	287	(10)
12—VK3ADF	294	(6)
13—VK3XB	310	(6)
14—VK3GS	331	(5)
15—L. D. Sykes	393	(10)
16—VK2ZC	646	(4)
17—VK3ADG	1176	(10)

OFFICIAL FREQUENCIES

1—7003.744 Kc.
2—7049.700 Kc.
3—7094.065 Kc. (7093.826 Kc.)
4—7132.320 Kc. (7132.261 Kc.)
5—7163.120 Kc. (7163.091 Kc.)
6—7024.810 Kc.
7—7066.240 Kc. (7066.454 Kc.)
8—7107.520 Kc. (7107.391 Kc.)
9—7144.525 Kc. (7144.695 Kc.)
10—7192.878 Kc (7192.869 Kc.)

The frequencies submitted by the winning entrant are in brackets alongside each Official Frequency.

C.W. Ratings for Several Radiotron Receiving Valves

Valve Type	Max. Plate Volts	Max. Screen Volts	Max. Grid Volts	Max. Plate Ma.	Max. Screen Ma.	Max. Grid Ma. (Note 1)	Max. Plate Dissipation (watts)	Max. Screen Dissipation (watts)	Power Output (watts) (Note 2)	Max. Freq. in Mc. (Note 3)	Grid-Screen Amp. Factor (approx.)
6AG7	375	250	—75	30	9	5	9	1.5	7.5	30	22
6AK6	375	250	—100	15	4	3	3.5	1	4	60	9.5
6C4	300	—	—100	25	—	8	5	—	5.5	60	18
6F6	400	275	—100	50	11	5	12.5	3	14	30	7
6L6	400	300	—125	100	12	3	21	3.5	28	30	8
6N7	350	—	—100	30†	—	5‡	5.5†	—	14.5§	30	35
6V6GT	350	250	—100	47	7	5	8	2	11	30	9

Note 1: 100,000 ohms maximum grid resistor.
„ 2: Based on 70% plate efficiency.
„ 3: Maximum frequency for full power output and input.
† Per Plate.
‡ Per Grid.
§ Total.

Publication of this data should not be taken as an indication that all types mentioned are available from stock. Amateurs possessing any of these types will find the above chart a useful guide to maximum operating conditions. It should be noted that metal tube ratings given above do not necessarily apply to G and GT equivalents.—"Radiotronics," March-April, 1949.

VK'S ABROAD

Recently we have received letters from two VK3s who are at present in Great Britain. As their letters are interesting, it is thought that readers would be interested to know what is going on in other parts of the world.

The first is from Elgar Treharne (VK3AFQ, now G3CST). He says: "I was very pleased to receive the invitation to attend the 6th Annual Exhibition of the R.C.M.F. Exhibitions, Fairs, and Conferences are very fashionable in London and one is continually amazed at the splendid display of components, especially at this show at the Grosvenor. There has been great emphasis on technical components from perspex lenses for the optical enlargement of the c.r.t. screen to high capacity electrolytics for e.h.t. supplies.

"For the Amateur a very wide range of co-axial cables, modulation equipment, transmitting condensers and other wanted components. There seems to be a score or more makers of loud speakers from 2½" diameter to the huge so called reflexed sound projectors. And there are just as many makes of pick-ups to stimulate these speakers.

"An interesting development of the thermistor is the 'Brimister'—a current surge resistor. The large negative temperature co-efficient characteristics of this device are exploited in this new component, one type of which has a resistance of 3,000 ohms at 20°C. and a resistance of 200 ohms when passing 0.1 Amp. Miniature components were represented, perhaps, not as much as I would have expected. There seems a great need for standardisation, especially with tubes—there is not only a multiplicity of almost comparable types, but the nomenclature seems to be designed with the express purpose of foxing the young player

"Please convey my congratulations to 'Amateur Radio'—the journal is really first-class these days, especially the technical articles on the conversion of service equipment to Amateur use."

The second is from W. H. Algar who had requested some W.I.A. information His letter reads: "Thank you very much for the pamphlet describing the activities of the Victorian Division of the W.I.A. It is very much appreciated as the Hams here are very interested in Amateur Radio in Australia.

"Since I've been in Coventry—since January—I've made quite a lot of good friends amongst the Hams here, and have joined the local radio society—Coventry A.R.S. They are a very enthusiastic and energetic body, holding their meetings every second week. I have recently taken out a licence for this country and hope to be on the air as soon as I am allotted a call sign."

"GREMLIN"

In the twelve months that this feature has been absent from the columns of "A.R.," signals eminating from Amateur stations, sloppy operating, the misuse of v.f.o's., etc., have gone from bad to worse.

Many requests for the return of "Gremlin" have been received by the Magazine Committee, and it has been unfortunate that the "Gremlin" has not been in a position to carry on with his good work.

However with the June issue this feature will re-commence. It will be written by a new "Gremlin," but will appear under a different name. The person responsible is one I have known for many years, whose interest is solely for the betterment of Ham Radio. He is an active transmitting member on all bands, and has been for many years.

—THOMAS D. HOGAN, Editor.

REVIEW

We have received from R. H. Cunningham & Co. a copy of the new 1949 Eddystone Component Catalogue, which as usual offers a most attractive range of components to the Ham. In addition to the lines already available, there are quite a few new lines which will have an immediate appeal to experimenters and these include Cat. No. 678 Modulation level indicator and field strength meter. Cat. No. 717 145 Mc. beam aerial kit and No. 709 145 Mc. tuning unit. Cat. No. 690 is a crystal calibrator containing two G.E. 1000 and 100 Kc. vacuum mounted crystals and is ideal for spotting down to 60 Mc.

The range of transmitting and receiving condensers has been expanded and offers many useful types for application up to 500 Mc. and above.

Copies of this Catalogue are available immediately from authorised Eddystone distributors.

LOCATION of RADIO RANGES

The location of the Radio Ranges mentioned in the article, "What No Beacons," in March "A.R." may not be known to readers.

We are therefore indebted to Mr. F. Hanham (VK3BJ) for supplying the following information:—

AD	33.8	Parafield, Adelaide.
AS	33.8	Alice Springs, N.T.
BN	33.3	Archerfield, Brisbane.
CS	33.3	Cairns, Queensland.
CB	33.8	Canberra.
DW	33.8	Daly Waters, N.T.
DN	33.3	Darwin, N.T.
ML	33.8	Essendon, Melbourne.
TV	33.8	Garbutt, Townsville, Q.
PH	33.8	Guildford, Perth.
HB	33.8	Cambridge, Hobart.
HK	33.3	Holbrook, N.S.W.
KM	33.8	Kempsey, N.S.W.
MN	33.3	Mangalore, Victoria.
SY	33.3	Mascot, Sydney.
NH	33.3	Nhill, Victoria.
LT	33.3	Western Junction, Tas.

FEDERAL, QSL and DIVISIONAL NOTES

Federal President.—W. R. Grenow, VK3WG; Federal Secretary.—W. T. S. Mitchell, VK3UM, Box 2611W, G.P.O., Melbourne.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Secretary.—Dick Dowe (VK2RP), Box 1734, G.P.O., Sydney

Meeting Night.—Fourth Friday of each month at Science House, Corner Gloucester and Essex Sts., Sydney.

Divisional Sub-Editor: H. F. Treharne, VK2BM, 5 Wairnea St., Burwood

Zone Correspondents.—North Coast and Tablelands: P. A. H. Alexander, VK2PA, Hill St., Port Macquarie, **Newcastle:** E. J. Baker, VK2FP, 13 Skelton St., Hamilton, Newcastle; **Coalfields and Lakes:** H. Hawkins, VK2YL, 27 Comfort Ave., Cessnock, **Western:** G. J. Russell, VK2QA, 116 Bogan St., Nyngan, **South Coast and Tablelands:** R. H. Rayner, VK2DO, 42 Perrit St., Yass; **Southern:** E. N. Arnold, VK2OJ, 673 Forrest Hill Ave., Albury **Western Suburbs:** A. C. Pearce, VK2AHB, 48 Harrabrook Ave., Five Docks. **Eastern Suburbs:** H. Kerr, VK2AX, No. 4 Flat, 144 Hewlett St., Bronte **North Sydney:** L. D. Cuffe, VK2AM, 779 Military Rd., Mosman **St. George:** J. A. Ackerman, VK2ALG, 32 Park Rd., Carlton. **South Sydney:** V. H. Wilson, VK2VW, Cr. Wilson St. and Marine Pde., Maroubra.

VICTORIA

Secretary.—C. C. Quin, VK3WQ

Administrative Secretary.—Mrs. O. Cross, Law Court Chambers, 191 Queen St., Melbourne, C.1.

Meeting Night.—First Wednesday of each month at the Radio School, Melbourne Technical College.

Zone Correspondents.—North Western: B. R. Mann, VK3BM, Quambatook, **Western:** C. C. Waring, VK3YW, 12 Skene St., Stawell; **South Western:** B. Sectrine, VK3BI, 17a Raglan Street North, Ballarat, **North Eastern:** J. A. Miller, VK3ABG, "Erinvale," Avenal, **Far North-Western Zone:** Harry Dobbyn VK3MF, 42 Walnut Ave., Mildura; **Eastern Zone:** J. D. Chilver, VK3DI, 20 Smith St., Leongatha.

W.I. BROADCASTS

All Amateurs are urged to keep these frequencies clear during, and for a period of 15 minutes after, the official Broadcasts.

VK2WI.—Sundays, 1100 hours EST, 7196 Kc. and 2000 hours EST, 50.4 Mc. No frequency checks available from VK2WI. Intra-State working frequency, 7175 Kc.

VK3WI.—Sundays, 1130 hours EST 7196 Kc. Individual frequency checks of Amateur Stations given when VK3WI is on the air

VK4WI.—Sundays, 0930 hours EST simultaneously on 3750 Kc., 7196 Kc., 14,342 Kc., 52.4 Mc. and 144.138 Mc. Frequency checks are given two nightly weekly, and the times are announced during Sunday broadcasts. 7010 Kc. channel is used from 1000 to 1030 hours each Sunday as VK4 query service to 4WI

VK5WI.—Sundays, 1000 hours SAST on 7196 Kc. Frequency checks are given by VK5DW on Friday evenings on the 7 and 14 Mc. bands.

VK6WI.—Sat. 2 p.m., Sun. 9.30 a.m. W.A.S.T. on 7196 Kc. No frequency checks available.

VK7WI.—Second and Fourth Sundays at 0930 hours EST on 7174 Kc. No frequency checks are available

QUEENSLAND

Secretary.—W. L. Stevens, VK4TB, Box 638J, G.P.O., Brisbane.

Meeting Night.—Last Friday in each month at the State Service Building, Elizabeth St., City.

Divisional Sub-Editor: F. H. Shannon, VK4SN Minden, via Rosewood.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Secretary.—E. A. Barbier, VK5MD, Box 1234K, G.P.O., Adelaide.

Meeting Night.—Second Tuesday of each month at 17 Waymouth St., Adelaide.

Divisional Sub-Editor.—W. W. Parsons, VK5PS, 483 Esplanade, Henley Beach

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Secretary.—W. E. Cexon, VK6AG, 7 Howard St., Perth.

Meeting Place.—Padbury House, Cnr. St. George's Tce and King St., Perth.

Meeting Night.—Watch the Monthly Bulletin.

Divisional Sub-Editor.—VK6WT, D. Couch, Mary Street, Watermans Bay, W. Australia

TASMANIA

Secretary.—J. Brown, VK7BJ, 12 Thirza St., Newtown, Telephone: W 1328.

Meeting Night.—First Wednesday of each month at the Photographic Society's Rooms, 163 Liverpool St., Hobart.

Divisional Sub-Editor.—Capt. E. J. Cruise, VK7EJ, Anglesea Barracks, Hobart

Northern Correspondent.—C. P. Wright, VK7LZ, 3 Knight St., Launceston.

FEDERAL

DX C.C. LISTING

PHONE

	Zones	Countries
VK3JD (96)	38	121
VK6RU (27)	37	111
VK3RZ (28)	37	108
VK6KW (34)	36	105
VK3IG (37)		100

C.W.

	Zones	Countries
VK3ON (3)	40	136
VK4VW (12)	39	131
VK3BZ (14)	40	132
VK3RK (10)	39	129
VK4LL (24)	39	130
VK2EO (7)	40	116
VK4DA (20)	38	113
VK3QL (18)	40	119
VK4HR (22)	38	106
VK2KB (33)		104
New Member—		
VK4RF (35)	34	102

OPEN

	Zones	Countries
VK2DI (2)	40	160
VK3BZ (5)	40	158
VK6RU (11)	37	140
VK3KX (1)		136
VK3HG (4)	38	136
VK3JE (18)	39	133
VK3MC (6)	39	132
VK4HR (9)	38	126
VK6KW (19)	39	125
VK4EL (16)	39	120
New Member—		
VK4RC (36)		100

Endorsements in the form of a sticker are now being issued for every additional 20 countries verified above the 100 required for the Certificate.

COUNTRIES LIST

In line with our note last month, it is understood that ex-D Amateurs are now being issued with DL calls which will be DL1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, in addition to the Occupation Forces prefixes as listed last month.

Substitute for Germany—DL in lieu of D (DA).
For Palau Islands—add prefix KC6.
For Bonin and Volcano—add prefix KG6.
Add New Country—Heard Island (89) VK1.

FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS

Following representations to the P.M.G's. Department by the Federal Executive, the following changes have been made with effect as from the 1st May, 1949. Two new types of emission have been added, namely, a.b.f.m. (narrow band frequency modulation) type 6F3, and s.s.s.c. (single sideband suppressed carrier) type A3a. A substitution has been made for the old 1345 to 1425 Mc. band and we now have the Atlantic City allocation of 1215 to 1300 Mc. The list below is the up-to-date one for Australian Amateurs:—

3.5 to	3.8 Mc.—A1, 3, 3a, 6F3.
7.0 to	7.2 Mc.—A1, 3, 3a, 6F3.
14.0 to	14.4 Mc.—A1, 3, 3a, 6F3.
26.96 to	27.23 Mc.—A1, 3, FM.
28.0 to	30.0 Mc.—A1, 3, 3a, 6F3
50.0 to	54.0 Mc.—A1, 2, 3, FM.
144 to	148 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
288 to	296 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
576 to	585 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
1215 to	1300 Mc. A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
2300 to	2450 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
5650 to	5850 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
10000 to	10500 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
21000 to	22000 Mc.—A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.
30000 Mc and higher—	A0, 1, 2, 3, FM, Pulse.

Note.—6F3 emission represents a maximum deviation from the quiescent frequency of plus or minus 3 Kc.

THIRD PARTY TRAFFIC

It has been brought to our notice by officers of the P.M.G. Department that several deliberate breaches of Regulation 33, which deals with the handling of third party messages, have recently occurred. The P.M.G. Department take a very serious view of such contraventions and have intimated that any further cases will be severely dealt with. All Amateurs will receive notification of this matter in the Circular issued by the Department announcing the new types of emission. Also enclosed will be found Amendment No. 2 to the Handbook for the Guidance of Amateur Operators, January, 1948.

SLOW MORSE TRANSMISSIONS

Reports on these transmissions from Amateurs, would be Amateurs and s.w.l's. would be welcomed by Federal Executive. Drop the Federal Secretary a note, and let him have your comments. The various official W.I.A. stations conducting these transmissions are as follows:—

Sunday—VK2WI, 1100-1130 E.A.S.T.
Monday—VK2WI, 2000-2030 E.A.S.T.
Tuesday—VK4WI, 0930-2000 E.A.S.T.
Wednesday—VK7WI, 2130-2200 E.A.S.T.
Thursday—VK6WI, not operating at present.
Friday—VK5WI, 1900-1940 E.A.S.T.

All of the above transmissions take place on 3504 Kc.

HEARD ISLAND REPORT

It is reported from Heard Island by VK1FE that early in February (presumably the first week) on his arrival, he logged the 50 Mc. signals from VK4BT at R2 S3 when in QSO with another station. Unfortunately Arthur did not have a transmitter on the air himself at that time. It appears that early contacts with Heard Island may be expected, especially from VK6.

Ron, VK1VU, appears to have the urge for the DX, judging by the cards coming to light for him, and the fact that he worked some 200 odd DX stations in the first two months of operation representing some 80 odd countries.

P.M.G. AMATEUR CALL BOOK

Due to difficulties in arranging printing, the Call Book may not be available before June. We will endeavour to obtain the latest correction lists until it is released.

FEDERAL CONVENTION

The 19th Annual Federal Convention, held over the Easter holidays, was a success and many resolutions were considered—in all 33 Agenda items and 25 General Business items. A summary of the various motions and the result will be published in the next issue of "A.R."

The Federal President's report indicated that a progressive year had gone by, and judging by the amount of work ahead as a result of the deliberations, another busy year is forecast.

Delegates who attended on behalf of the various Divisions were Mr. John Moyle (2JU), N.S.W., Mr Bob Cunningham (3ML), Vic.; Mr. Howard MacGregor (4ZU), Qld.; Mr. "Doc" Barbier (5MD) and Mr. Hal Austin (5AW), S.A., Mr. George Moss (6GM), W.A.; Mr. Joe Brown (7BJ), Tas., and Federal Executive Officers Federal President Mr Bill Grenow (3WG), Federal Vice-President Mr. George Glover (2AG), Federal Secretary

Mr. Bill Mitchell (3UM), Federal Publicity Mr George Manning (3XJ), and the Federal Treasurer Mr. Perce Evans (3QZ). Mr Alan Brown (3CX) in his inimitable style, recorded the various findings of the Convention.

FREQUENCIES FOR FRENCH AMATEURS

As from the 1st January, 1949, the following details of frequencies allowable for French Amateurs are:—

3.5	to 3.625	Mc.—CW.
7.0	to 7.2	Mc.—CW.
14.0	to 14.4	Mc.—CW.
28.0	to 29.7	Mc.—CW.
72.0	to 72.8	Mc.—100W. *
144	to 146	Mc.—100W. *
420	to 460	Mc.—FM.
1215	to 1300	Mc.—FM, Pulse.
2300	to 2450	Mc.—FM, Pulse.
5650	to 5850	Mc.—FM, Pulse.
10000	to 10500	Mc. FM, Pulse.

Power input permissable on the 3, 7, and 14 Mc. bands is 50 watts, and 100 watts for the other bands.

*These bands to be utilised for the radio-control of models, in addition.

W.A.P. AWARD

In clarification of the countries for which claims may be made for this award (see March "A.R."), the following countries are to be used:—

CR10	Portuguese Timor
DU	Philippine Islands
FK8	New Caledonia
FO8	French Oceania. (Tahiti)
FU8, YJ	New Hebrides
KB6	Baker, Howeland, etc.
KC4	Antarctica
KC6	Caroline Islands
KG6	Palau Islands
KG6	Bonin & Volcano Islands
KG6	Marianas Is. (Guam)
KH6	Hawaiian Islands
KJ6	Johnston Island
KM6	Midway Island
KP6	Jarvis & Palmyra Is.
KS6	American Samoa
KW6	Wake Island
KX6	Marshall Islands
PK	Java
PK4	Sumatra
PK5	Netherlands Borneo
PK6	Celebes & Moluccas Is.
PK7	Neths. New Guinea
VK	Australia
VK9	Papua Territory
VK9	Territory New Guinea
VK9	Norfolk Island
VR1	Gilbert & Ellice Is.
VR2	Fiji Islands
VR3	Fanning (Washington) Is.
VR4	Br Solomon Is.
VR5	Friendly (Tonga) Is.
VR6	Pitcairn Island
VS4	Br. Nth. Borneo & Labuan Is.
VS5	Sarawak
VS6	Brunei
ZC1	Cocos Islands
ZC5	Christmas Island
ZK1	Cook Island
ZK2	Niue
ZL	New Zealand
ZM6	Western Samoa
	Br Phoenix Is.
	Tokelau & Union Is.

NEW SOUTH WALES

At the monthly general meeting held at Science House, Gloucester Street, Sydney, on Friday, 25th March, Mr. Allan Bird 2QW ably presented a lecture on "Inductive Coupling of Antennae to Feed Lines to Permit Continuous Rotation of Beam Antennae." Allan gave a full mathematical analysis of the subject which was considered so valuable that he has been asked to make it available for publication in "Amateur Radio" in the near future.

The general meeting was preceded by an Extraordinary and Confirmatory General Meeting to ratify alterations to the Constitution recommended by the Constitution Revision Committee.

Visitors to the meeting, 3GS and 2QA, were welcomed by the President.

The names of the N.S.W country observers of the Amateur Advisory Committee were supplied by the P.M.G.s Department. They are T Evans 2NS, P. Alexander 2PA, R. Weeden 2PN, R. H. Raynor 2DO, E. Arnold 2QJ, and E. Baker 2FP.

The nominations for the 1949 50 Council were Brian Anderson 2AND, Vic Cole 2VL, Lee Cuffe 2AM, N. H Hicks 2ANH, N. S. Hill 2JG, Clive Hutchison 2YP, Naughton McNaughton 2ZH, S. W. Owen 2RX, Terry Thorpe 2CL, and H. F. Trebarne 2BM.

WESTERN SUBURBS ZONE

There is any amount of activity on the lower frequency bands, but fellows in the other zones of the Sydney area would be happy to see more Western Suburbs stations on 144 and 288 Mc. There are several regulars on these bands so don't be afraid of hearing walls of silence. Modulated oscillators are not considered out of the question although the trend is towards crystal control. So do try and help swell the population at v.h.f. An unidentified VK2 was reported heard a couple of months back on 144 Mc. 2AHU is going strong and says that this time his skyhook is up to stay. Curly also has a fine new receiver completed. 2ATL is a new one in the Five Dock area and has been operating on 40 and 20. 2JT has been lashing out on 20 metre c.w. 2CL is on as often as possible, though busy. Les rakes in some good DX.

2ADA Tom Davies of Glebe, has not been very active but he has some promising stuff on the way. 2AKR not heard recently. 2AGT of the family of Hams is striking out on 14 Mc. for some fine DX contacts. 2WB on 20 metre phone. 2MQ is mainly on 50 Mc. BiR hopes to have some 826s on that band soon. 2TD has moved from the district. No news of radio developments. Just married, y'know! 2BW doing some good work on v.h.f. 2AHB working more DX in a week than in the last ten years.

SOUTH ZONE

During the month the local QRM was increased with the advent of a signal from 2ANB. Norm has just moved into this district and all the chaps wish to extend a very hearty welcome to him. The general topic of the month seems to be beams and still more beams. The locals turned out in force to help 2WJ put up a three element wide spaced job for 10 metres. Later they went to help 2ABU put up his 35 foot tower topped with a two element close spaced beam on 20 metres.

2VW also has a three element beam under construction for 10. 2ABC has not been heard much lately, that new car giving trouble Fred? 2ABB on occasionally but Berry seems to be away a lot lately. 2RT also pounds an aircraft key and spends more time overseas than at home. 2UV had bad luck and blew up his main power transformer and is temporarily confined to 144 Mc. 2AB STILL re-building. Jim has his masts up again so it should not be long now. 2WJ heard chasing DX with new 10 metre beam, but have not heard whether it is any good yet. 2ANB, our latest member is putting out a very nice signal on 144 Mc. Have not heard 2TJ for a long time now, but rumour has it that Wal also has a new 10 metre beam in operation.

2YO now back on the job after a spell in hospital. Glad to hear you are OK again Jim. 2QP not heard much lately, what about it Orm? 2ARH on most week-ends on 20 or 40 metres, but Peter spends all the week travelling.

EASTERN SUBURBS ZONE

2QC has a new v.f.o., can be heard working DX outside pet h.c. hours. Ray says DX much easier with v.f.o. 2PJ has had some bad luck, blew up final power supply twice, OK again and active on 20 phone. 2AHQ threatens to make a come-back, rather cramped in new QTH. 2VA off the air after losing his three element beam in heavy wind. Vince has a 70 footer under construction, meanwhile uses a folded dipole, not very pleased with it. 2AIG still doing good work on his 3 w. phone. Ray says he has to use phone on 40 to get a QSO, also aims up more to 20.

2AZH active on 20 phone, has not been on c.w. for years, blowing the dust off his key, to have another shot. 2QY finally cleared up the trouble in his rig, now putting out first-class phone. 2AJG not very active, heard occasionally on c.w. 2VP active 20 metre phone, having trouble with control relays. 2AFZ built new receiver, Eric is very happy with its performance. 2AHJ not heard much lately, don't know if it is h.c.l. or YL trouble. 2KH active 20 metre phone. 2BV still rebuilding, we are looking forward to your next transmission.

SOUTH [illegible] ZONE

There's so much activity in the beam building business nowadays that it's fast getting to the point where anyone without one will be snubbed at. 2QC has passed the planning stage with his, and 2NI is going ahead with a super effort to replace his old two element which suffered in a wind storm some time ago. 2GQ, the grand old man of c.w., has his beam completed, and is collecting a few of the strong-arm boys to hoist it up on the pole. 2HT is away from his QTH, travelling commercially in the country. 2PV and 2AM proceeding steadily and slowly—very slowly!—with their re-build.

2EO negotiating for another receiver. 2ZH designing another receiver to end all receivers—I seem to have heard this before! 2TL and family on holidays, miles away from Ham Radio. He also has a beam planned on his return. 2ADV back at the old stand, busy on phone and c.w. 2AMB will make the Century Club or bust.

DX NOTES BY VK2QL

Well gang, there is very little to report this month as far as doings of the DX men are concerned, as I have no details from more than one or two. Conditions have not been good during the last month, very little being heard on any band, 3.5 and 7 Mc. being well down. 2DI says 28 Mc. has been good for Africa round 0700 G.M.T., but all heard this QTH. If you happen to be on any band when something rare breaks through, it can be worked as no "dog pile" gathers, due to the inactivity on the band. For instance, the other night GM3ANO, VP9 came through for a couple of hours at good strength, and made frequent CQs instead of being smothered by dozens of stations calling him, and similarly KS4AI. The odd VK seems to be working the VK1s, but not heard here to date.

VK3KO again hits the headlines with another nice piece of work. He worked GDCJ on the four DX bands within a period of 95 minutes, concluding on 28 Mc. at 2215 G.M.T. A very creditable performance.

Another old timer has chased the spiders and what nots out of the rig and threatens to damage all DX receivers, the said gent being Morrie Brown 2OR. 2EO seems to be in a rest home or some place since the A.R.R.L. DX Contest, as he has not been heard on the bands unless he now has one of his own. 2DI advises he has received his W.A.P. Certificate and numbered 2. Hear also advise received my application W.A.Z. in order and also numbered 2 in respect of VK.

Cards are coming through from MD4BPC, which should satisfy a few clients. My card was direct so he may QSL all VK direct. By working UM8KAA, 2ACX has now worked all Russian prefixes. Nice work Arthur. Does that make you a "Hero?!!" Has sent cards for W.A.Z. Certificate.

Talking to Bert, W6FU, the other day he advised he now totals 282 countries, and still coppling the odd new one. Where do they all come from? 2YO has a good alibi for not sorting the cards, as Jim now totals 99 countries, latest being OX and VP9.

Not many listings this month, so what about it gang?

VK3ACX—184, MD4GC KC6WA (Palau Is.).
VK2DI—193, ED8B, ZS8A.
VK2HZ—163
VK2QL—161, GM3ANO/VP9, HA1KK.

The QTH of FF8JA is Andre Jeannot, Adjutant-General, Colonial Radio Transmission Company, Tiaroye, Senegal, French West Africa.

Now, in closing, what about the DX gang making some sort of an effort, a serious one, to clean up the bands. Firstly, by cleaning up our own sigs, for believe me the DX gang, and men with years of experience behind them, are putting some horrible sigs into the ether. Secondly, by not being afraid to give the station you are working an honest report. If his sig is not T9X, tell him so, and the average bloke will thank you for letting him know. There is always the odd one who says "nuts," but if honest reports are always given, he will eventually do something. You phone chaps will be surprised what is brought to light in a carrier when you put the b.f.o. on the sig. The other night, c.w. reception on 14 Mc. was completely ruined at this QTH by clicks radiated by a VK2, VK4 and VK5, operating in different sections of the band at the same time, and during a recent Contest a VK5 phone sig was all over the c.w. section of the band horribly distorted. That was in Sydney, what must it have been like close to his QTH. Well, what about it gang?

73 for now and good hunting and honest reporting.

NORTHERN COAST AND TABLELANDS

Most of this zone have been active on 80 and 40. Conditions on 80 excellent. 2GI, 2XO, 2ARY, 2AJB, 2JO and occasionally 2PA heard most evenings. 2XO has been experimenting with antennae and favours two half waves in phase. Now using cathode modulation with 100 per cent. improvement in quality and signal. 2JO's three sons had a very narrow escape in Broken Bay recently when their sailing boat overturned near Lion Island.

2AJB expecting steel tower to arrive any day and will be constructing six metre beam. He recently had a visit from 2RU who spent a pleasant few days with Elsie and himself. Carried out some six metre tests with 2OC at Wyong with effective results.

2UN holidaying at Yamba, visited 2GL. 2JK just about to give the game away due to line noise,

works twenty when possible. 2ASF, 2XO and 2PA busy with arrangements for Urunga Zone Convention, they hope the day will be a success. A number of the zone members are active on 10 and 20.

GOULBURN AND CANBERRA

2RU still active on 80 Mc., may break out on lower freq., has rig finished. 2AEZ picked up AC4RF, makes him 118 countries—38 zones post-war; report Europeans good in mornings from 6 a.m. onwards. 2AMU running 12 watts on 80 Mc., has worked 2GU in Canberra, 88 report. 2KR on 40 phone as usual. 2AIO at the Entrance is going but no news of his activities. 2OO doesn't seem so active these days. No news of 2TY 2VU going again on 80 Mc. after some re-building. Maitland sports a new old Ham in 2ALR. Nil from 2YO, 2PZ or 2MK this month. 2KF using some gear and "Clapp" oscillator, 2EZ has worked New Hampshire on 10 phone, only needs Delaware for W.A.S. Max using eight half waves, four above four and works the States up to 9 p.m. on 10 metres. 2YL still re-building and hopes to be on in about six weeks. 2ADT doing some band-hopping from 80 metres to 144 Mc., a new rig is being used on 6 with good results.

WESTERN ZONE

2BT active on 40 and 20. 2WH getting his share of DX, collected VK1AIS on Macquarie Island. Zone Officer 2QA returned from holidays after doing the rounds of the shacks. Recommends the hospitality of 2AJB, put on two stone in Muswellbrook, nice work Elsie! 2XE active with a new Tx. 2IK entertained 2AOU over Easter, but couldn't get near the microphone, Rod had it in both hands. 2YN been entertaining 2AQQ. Bill made a quick W.A.C. to show how to do it. 2DK been heard on 40. 2AOT still bee farming and no prospects of an early return to Ham Radio. 2ACU and 2WH made the Northern Zone's Convention at Urunga, they were invited to investigate the propagation properties of Lany "Nina" Don 2ALX is back again in Orange, was heard over Easter. 2JG active on 40, likewise 2DQ with a nice drop of morse. 2II with family and caravan was in Bathurst for the car races. Congrats to 2NS and his YF, will hear them both on the air soon. 2AFV had the bad luck to get across 1,000 volts, 2LY been doing a spot of recording on 50 Mc. for the W.I.A. v.h.f. broadcast.

2LZ inactive, spends a lot of time star gazing these days. 2EY on 144 and getting down to town from a badly shielded location. 2HZ been celebrating a happy event, has 167 up post-war. 2FB been talking compression with 2GS, so looks like some changes at St. Marys. 2AFO building new gear, has microtope going on 144 Mc. 2FI been trying 144. 2AOP back in Katoomba but not very active as yet.

SOUTH COAST AND SOUTHERN TABLELANDS

During the month many of the zone stations have been contacted, and think honours go to 2OW for the improvements effected to his equipment and signal. Much alterations to 2OW, result old No. 11 exciter has been replaced by a v.f.o. using "Clapp" and two class A isolator stages, final is an 807 with 46 watts input, for speech two stage transformer coupled to p.p. 6V6s—crystal insert completes the line up and the effect is very pleasing. 2MN passed through Yass en-route to the R.A.S. in Sydney. Has made a change of QTH, now at Young. Uses a AT5/AR8, will be a W.I.A. member shortly. 2AIK had some bad luck and ruined four tubes in his equipment, very badly regulated power supply in West Wyalong is probably the trouble. 2ALN contacted while using complicated antenna system, a new mike has helped the quality too.

2AKE is very QRL, changing houses and believe to date no one has been hurt in rushing the vacant house. 2PI at Hall has a double conversion super but will spend a lot more time on it yet. The latest piece of gear is a "command Tx as v.f.o. 2AJP has been run to earth and has some fine gear operating, v.f.o.—6V8-807-803 suppressor modulated by 1603-6L7-76-6V6, Dynamic mike. 2OV of Goulburn has completed a "secret weapon" being we believe a Rx to end all Rx, no details direct but a little bird was active. 2WP, 6V6 triter into 807 with 60 watts, has a 6F6 plate and screen modulating that input! 2UK very QRL doing a bit of unfortunate batching, his YF is ill, we hope she soon recovers. 2ON active on 40 and 80, no details of gear. 2VH active on 20 according to 2WP. 2WV also DXing but not heard in Yass. Eric Fisher, Jnr., seem to be one of the active Hams in W'gong. 2ANW at Balgownie on 40 with good phone signals using Dynamic mike, commercial vintage. 2JQ active on 40, has a new car and plenty of work. 2ALS has completely rebuilt new rig using v.f.o. and 807 final, mod. pair 6V6s, all built into an AT5 frame, very compact. 2GU heard working 2ALA but duty called and Arch had to "gallop" (to coin a popular phrase of 2WH). Congrats to Trevor 2NS and his YF, heard from many stations during their honeymoon. 2QA "The Voice of Nyngan" was heard from stations far removed during the holiday. Visitors through Yass during the month included 2MN, 2HT, 2ANK, and 2TH.

VICTORIA

A.O.C.P. CLASS

The Mornington Peninsula Sub-Branch of the Eastern Zone of the W.I.A., located at the Army Signals School, Balcombe Camp, is commencing a class for those desirous on the Mornington Peninsula of obtaining an A.O.C.P licence.

It is intended to bring students gradually up to the stage with theory, morse and regulations that will enable them to pass the P.M.G. examinations. Prospective students are asked to contact Lieut. Wright at the Army Signals School at Balcombe for further details. Commencing date for the class is 9th May at 7 p.m. in the Club Rooms at the School.

SOUTH WESTERN ZONE CONVENTION

Saturday and Sunday, 2nd and 3rd April, the gang of the South Western Zone held their Convention at Colac. Around the tables at dinner one could see 3BE, 3ASV, 3BI, 3II, 3AGD, 3AKR, 3AKE, 3PS, 3BU, 3QC, 3EQ, 3ZU, 3IC, 3HG, 3KX, 3ABK, 3AGV, 3APG, 3YE, 3WT, 3AMP, 3ABE, 3BW, and 3UT; following visitors: 3RD, 3IK, 3TM, 3AML; others present were B. Sadler, C. Churnside, E. Giddings, D. Brook, B. Stokes, and R. Carter.

Saturday afternoon the chaps rolled into the shacks as they arrived in Colac, Sunday the boys had a look over the broadcast station 3CS and I heard some have new ideas for their new rigs. From what I hear all enjoyed themselves, and thanks go for the good job the Colac gang did.

Heard that 3VA is after an AR88 receiver when he goes to Sydney and is taking 3HW as bodyguard. Latest is that Bob has folded his dipole on 20 with good results, what about the gentlemen's band Bob, no hear.

Hear that an eye bug has struck Ballarat as 3BI and 3ASV were in dry dock (bed) with eye trouble, looking where they shouldn't. Some good news from Ballan gang is that 3PP works 10 and

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See also Outstanding Offer Page 2

English Hi-Frequency Receiver Type R.3084A. Band Tuning Coverage approx. 170 Megacycles. Valve line up2—RL75, 1—KL16, 6—VR91S. Aerial switching motor, valves etc., 2 at £5 each. Osram Neon lamps. Flourescent Tubes. Ideal for V.R. Tubes. 2/6 each. Mazda 4-watt Pencil Type Flourescent Tubes. Ideal for R.F. indicators. 1/6 each.

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Secondhand Valves, all types. Battery and AC to Clear.

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Many others you name, we'll supply them.

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"HAM" RADIO SUPPLIES

5A MELVILLE STREET HAWTHORN, VIC.

PHONE—HAW. 4465

20 with many DX contacts, while 3APA only works on 20 with 100 countries up with four wave vee beams and 100 watts to p.p. 807s.

3ADL (ex-9BM) building with p.p. 807s 100 watts and Bruce's receiver is still in VK9 land, so 9GW has it and it's a BC342. 3WB has new QTH at Hawthorn, but Don cannot come on the air as XYL has his nose to grindstone doing domestic work, bad show Don. 3AKE works 80 and 40 when not on 144 Mc., 3BU still finds time for QSO on 40, 3APG has new v.f.o. 100 watt rig all bands. 3ALG had power transie trouble but OK now, while 3AAT has fine signal.

3IO has BC348 receiver, and 3BW on 40 c.w. with Type A Mark III. Neil has a 504 receiver, not a 640, sorry Neil for mistake. 3ZU had holiday with revamped 108 with good results. 3SC came to see your scribe 3UT and 3ZU when holidaying at Warrnambool.

3BU worked 3TO and 3ABA on 144 Mc. recently 3BW also active on this band. 3BW was also operating on 40 metres using a Type A Mark III. 3VF on 80 metres with AT5, working 3BU and 3ALG on 7th April.

FAR NORTH WESTERN ZONE

It was decided to start weekly code practice classes at a meeting of the above zone, held on 1st April, 1949. Attendance was good. 3QZ, 3FC, 3TI, 3ACV, 3MF, 3AGF and Associates Herb Walker, Alex Smart, Jim Power and Kel Stansfield being present. Apologies received from 3NO. Weekly code practice starts on Wednesday, 6th April, with 3FC pounding it into them.

Zone President, 3QZ, who attended the State Convention, gave an interesting summing up of proceedings on both days, also the night at Harry Kinnear's.

New Ham 3ACY (Ray) had a sorry tale to tell of a fractured rock. We all hope the T9 note will be on the band soon Ray. Associate Jim Power caused a few eyebrows to be raised and evoked a lot of interest when he produced a schematic of a huge band-switched double conversion receiver he has designed. Reckons he has a big pile of coils and a five band switch so the soldering iron will run hot with a vengeance. Meeting closed at 10 p.m. when several of the boys had a look over 3MF's shack, switches being pulled by 3FC.

3QZ has f.b. final completed, 805 and very solid job; should be bending a few S meter needles 'ere you read this. 3FC has the Type 3 Mark II. at 3MF's QTH and gets choice DX bits on 40, ah that fist! When are we to come out and fell those trees Bert 3NO?

3TI very busy man these days, re-build no further on, did you lose heart when the pole went over in recent storm? Expect some 50 Mc. activity from 3AUG when harvest work ceases, nice receiver 3MF cathode modulating 807, mainly on 40, hoping for bigger and better reports when oregon pole goes up. 3AGF inactive, just having bout in hospital where he parted with the o.d tonsils, all our sympathies Tom; we wish you a speedy return to the DX. 3AFC is proud, so proud of recently arrived 1st harmonic, let's hear that phone Fred.

WESTERN ZONE

Two pleasant surprises turned up during the month. First a nice long letter from 3FI, and later a visit from Ray himself while he was holidaying in the Grampians. He was pleased the way his FS6 got out over the rocks. Ray tells me 3TA is busy moving into a new home and as soon as the new shack is built, a 50 ft. tower erected, and a four element beam installed on top. Byron will be back on the air. He and Byron had an interesting time getting 3TA's old three element 20 metre rotary and the 40 ft. telephone pole down to earth, however the job was done and the old three element now reposes in 3FI's shack.

Claude of 3OD is Horsham's mystery man, but mystery or not he has done good work on 50 Mc. and now has all States. He is at present busy constructing 144 Mc. gear.

Len of 3AV is hampered by boarding house limitations and that bane of country Hams, d.c. supply, however he amuses himself on crystal grinds and as 3FI says, takes to it like an 807 to self-oscillation. A new member in Horsham is Alan Walter and when last seen was hurrying home from a holiday with a car load of wife and disposals gear; all of a dither to tear it apart. 3FI has also been busy adding a 4th harmonic to the family, and putting finishing touches to the new 100 w. rig. The Class AB2 807 modulators at present are a little jumpy, but as Ray says some extra shielding round about will do the trick.

On our last zone hook-up we were pleased to have VK3AWH with us for the first time. Watty is a new Ham and puts out a very nice signal indeed. 3AKW is building himself a v.f.o. and hopes to have it going soon. Bill is also putting a switch on the p.a. 3ARM has at long last lost his almost perpetual Sunday morning QRM. Bob was on the verge of buying a new crystal to miss it too.

3EP now has some competition as 3AWH is only about 200 yards away, so Ted will have to sharpen up the old receiver or have a working agreement for different bands. For the benefit of a VK3 net 3YW rubbed a few Kc. off his crystal so if I now clutter up another net it can't be helped; but whatever happens chaps, if you can make it don't forget the zone hook-up—**Second Sunday in Month on approximately 7120 Kc.**

EASTERN ZONE

The main topic of conversation in the zone this month has been the forthcoming portable contest, and it seems as though a good percentage will be going portable. 3SS and group plan to take a tent with all mod. cons., for camping over the week-end. The grilled steaks make one's mouth water at the thought of them. 3PR will be running the highest power, 20 watts to his Type 3 Mark II. The majority expect to operate with an input of between 4 and 6 watts. It is to be hoped that the weather decides to treat us kindly.

Our President, 3PR, has the a.c. on at last, and is now talking in terms of a three-stage 50 watt rig. 3DI at Leongatha reported a drop in line voltage when Ron switched his Type 3 on. Jim is expecting his new car any day, and has neglected his favourite hobby whilst fixing up a garage worthy of the object it is to house. 3SS gleefully reported receipt of a new light utility bus, and informed anxious enquirers that he will be keeping the old one. 3AEP is apparently thinking in terms of a new car also—radio will be taking a back seat with quite a few of the zone.

3WR hasn't been doing so well with his calling in lately. There have been a few absentees in the hook-up. 3ACL has been too busy picking apples to do much operation. 3VL/US have also been busy picking, and clearing the block of trees not needed for the antenna farm, so have not done any ear-bashing except for the usual sked with 3DI, and a nightly sked with W6NAZ. 3CI was very keen about his cubical quad until he put it up. The best DX on 20 for the month was a QSO between 3CI and 3VL. 3LV is not on the air much—saving petrol for the holidays. 3QZ, contrary to expectations, is going to Metung for Easter, instead of spending the holidays on the estate. He plans to leave the rigs at home and you a Ham, Graham! 3QK finds 10 metre DX keeps him fully occupied. He is after DX C.C. twice over. 3TH is operating from his new shack, and finds it much more convenient.

Mornington Peninsula Sub-Branch.—This sub-branch of the Eastern Zone of the W.I.A. have decided to hold a Field Day on 29th May (Sunday) to celebrate the first year of operation of the sub-branch at Balcombe Camp. The arrangements for the day include: Picnic lunch, bring your own; Field Day on 3.5, 7, 50 Mc. and upwards; Hidden Transmitter Hunt on 7 Mc. band, Buffet Tea, good prizes will be given for various sections of the day's activities.

A cordial invitation is extended to all members of the Institute to come along and join in with the gang on the Mornington Peninsula. Members who have portable gear are especially asked to bring along their gear and have a chance of winning a prize. The location of the Field Day is the Army Signals School at Balcombe Camp. This day's outing promises to be a good "do", so come along and join in the fun. 3KT or 3RR would like to hear from those who will be attending, so that catering arrangements can be finalised.

NORTH EASTERN ZONE

3UI has built a new modulator and DX has been better since. 3APF still getting out on ten and now has new 100 watter going on six. 3AOK hunted a big end on his car driving home from the Convention. 3RR has been working DX on 40 and 20 metre c.w. 3TS has had a holiday trip to VK2. 3QD doing well on ten phone now. 3YV is still very ill, and in hospital. 3ACW is building for ten. 3ABG burnt second genemotor out.

QUEENSLAND

The general meeting for the Queensland Division met on the 25th March in the Elisabeth Street Rooms. In the absence of the President the chair was occupied by 4KB. Attendance was poor on account of the wet weather. The Agenda Paper for the Federal Convention was discussed and our delegate, 4ZU, was given the necessary instructions.

Copies of the VK4 Constitution are being made and each financial member of this Division will receive his copy in the near future. Membership Certificates have arrived and provided the President does not break down with writer's cramp, all members should have received their certificate long before these notes are published. At the present time approximately fifty per cent. of the licensed Hams in VK4 are members of the W.I.A. Of these, approximately fifty per cent. are country members.

Arrangements have been made for instruction for our students in theory and c.w. Transmission of morse practice will be made over 4WI on a frequency of 3504 Kc. at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesdays. Students and Hams wishing to brush up on their code should listen to the Sunday morning broadcast of 4WI for further announcements.

Station manager 4FN announces that 4WI will be operating on 7100 Kc. with s.s.s.c. in the immediate future and reports would be welcome.

At the present time 87 members are making good use of our circulating library. Once again we remind subscribers that books should be returned to the librarian as soon as possible.

ZONE NEWS

As we write these notes news comes to hand that 4GH, 4AI, 4BG, 4BY, and a number of budding Hams held a meeting in Maryborough and decided to form a radio club in that city. Nice work fellows! We hope to be able to report in our next issue that the club has been formed.

Bundaberg Zone (4BJ).—The Bundaberg and District Radio Society at a recent meeting decided to build emergency gear. 4UK has moved to a new QTH, 4PG is now using a double conversion super, but we understand that a new harmonic and power supply trouble is keeping Arthur very busy. 4HE hopes to use s.s.s.c. soon, is building new rig for 10 and 6 metres, and also a super antenna. 4CW using command receiver on 7 Mc. Jack tried out the new "bath tub" antenna, but is not at all pleased with results. 4BJ still hording the fort and doing a good job as zone manager.

Gympie Zone (4HZ).—4CR has a dual purpose antenna—7 Mc and XYL's clothes line. 4XR using fixed beam on South America, also tuned antenna. 4XJ moving to 4RO. Les was married recently and took a Type A Mark III. on honeymoon (that such innocence should be!). 4HD still working a few on 50 Mc. 4HZ reports that he is getting much better radiation with the 50 ft. a mile than with other antennae. He has worked 85 ZL1s, 80 ZL2s, 40 ZL3s and 30 ZL4s. 3116 post-war contacts of which 245 are DX Qsls. Not bad for low power and on 40 and 80 metre bands only. There seems to be a great controversy over the advantages of parallel versus series tuned antennae up Gympie way.

Townsville Zone (4QD).—With the departure of 4QE from the Townsville zone the club elected 4XB as its new secretary. Four new associate members have been admitted in the club. One member having passed the exam. is now awaiting his call sign.

The club has ten transmitting members in 4EJ, 4FA, 4GD, 4GF, 4JH, 4RU, 4RW, 4VH, 4WH and 4XD, out of a total membership of 36. The club hopes to have its own transmitter operating shortly, 4EJ having donated the gear. 4GD has built a converter with switching for 50, 28 and 21 Mc bands, and hopes to add a 14 Mc. coil soon. Len is using a "clapp" oscillator on 25 Mc.

Mackay Zone (4KW).—Boys in this zone have been very quiet lately, everyone is striking trouble with gear. Probably the after effects of the cyclonic weather and continued wet weather is putting a few of us out of commission. 4FH is supposed to be a very busy gardener so evidently conditions on the DX bands are very bad. John has worked 42 countries and 14 Mc. phone.

Two new zones have been created, the old Ipswich zone has been extended to include the Lockyer and southern border. A new zone "The Downs" extends from Toowoomba to Wallangarra, and westward. In our next notes we hope to be able to announce the new zone managers for these areas.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION'S ANNUAL DINNER

The 17th Annual Dinner of the Queensland Division was held on Saturday evening, 12th March at the Anzac Club, with an attendance of 45. Among the visitors present were Mr. P. Andrews, Radio Inspector's Branch, Mr. Russell, Mr. F. Roberts, three Country Members from Ipswich, 4UX from Stanthorpe, Allen Smith VK3 Associate, 4DA Dalby, apologies were received from 4NC, 4MR, 4HR, 4GW, 4WS, 4MM, 4AG, 4WO, 4TB, 4WF, 4FB, 4SV, 4LT, 4DN, 4GH, and 4SN, Associate Members Felsmann and Hungerford.

Our President, 4AW, welcomed members and visitors and reported "Our progress during the past twelve months has been good, our membership rose from 188 when I addressed you at our last Dinner to 214, our present roll call. Although during the year we have actually enrolled more than 30 new members, some of our previous members have dropped out. When I look back to the early days when he had a membership of between 40 and 50, one realises how the Division has grown, also how the work of looking after 214 members has grown considerably.

"We now have a quiet club room in Victory Chambers where we hold Council Meetings and Student Classes. Here every lunch hour members can get together and enjoy a chat over lunch. I would like to see more members making use of the rooms during the lunch hour between 12 and 2 p.m. I do think city members should go along. Remember the days gone by when we were in Celtic Chambers, when during the lunch hour we had large gatherings of members?

"Some of our sections have been very active during the past year. The country section now has 71 active members under the very able direction of 4SN, our country representative. I think possibly one factor responsible for the improvement in our country section was the introduction of 4WI, which enables the country members to keep in touch, ask questions, express opinions and have them passed on. This service we will endeavour to keep going. We are at present operating five transmitters simultaneously on 3.5, 7, 14, 50, and 144 Mc bands. This is a record, as no other Division, even those with much larger membership, has been able to operate on more than one channel at a time.

"Another very active section is the v.h.f. section. It is probably past history to go over what has taken place on 50 and 144 Mc but I must mention that one of our members has heard and logged VK4 on 144 Mc and this was confirmed. I personally, during a visit to Sydney last year, checked up on this and found same to be correct.

"We are now starting on 288 Mc. As yet no definite contacts have been made on this frequency, but sigs have been heard over 10 to 12 miles, while in the 400-500 Mc. band, some of the boys have long line oscillators working quite satisfactorily. I think we will hear a lot more of these regions before long. Some of the v.h.f. men here, are working down on 10 Cm. band and have some very fine equipment going in these regions.

"Contests during the year were well patronised, and a number of members have done very well, although we did not do well at the last Remembrance Day Contest; so let us give this Contest a lot of thought, and next year do much better.

"Federal Executive have some very nice Certificates for these Contests, some of you have seen them—4EL, 4DO, 4DA, 4UR have already won the DX C.C. and several others are well on the way to theirs.

"Since the alteration to policy, the library has done very well and now we have a scheme whereby we know where the books are, something which under the old scheme we did not know.

"Our Sub-Editor to 'Amateur Radio' has done a very fine job, however there is one point I would like to bring under notice. **Last year we had several articles published, but it is a long time now since we have seen an article from VK4, I urge you all to give this some thought and let us have an article or two from each one of you.**"

The President then went on to outline the fine work done by 4RT, 4ES, 4FN, 4ZU on disposals, the formation of an Emergency Network, and the Food for Britain parcels, which this Division sent to R.S.G.B. He then made presentations to the retiring Secretary 4XG, and the operator of 4WI (4PN). After 4XG and 4PN had replied, 4RT was called upon to propose the toast to the retiring officers. This was replied to by 4XG. 4ZU proposed the toast to the Wireless Branch, which was responded to by Mr. P. Andrews of the R.I. Branch. The toast to the Wireless Institute of Australia was proposed by Mr. R. S. Roberts, who called to mind the very early days of Ham Radio in Queensland, and the early days of W.I.A. 4ES responded to this toast, after which 4RT proposed the toast to the Radio Trade, to which Mr. J. R. Foster replied.

Between toasts several small trophies were competed for. Associate Member M. Gabriel won a pair of 1600 Kc. i.f.t.'s, 4KH a push pull mixer transformer, 4ZU a pair of 6SN7 tubes, and 4LP a 6 inch Rola speaker and 4GR a 807 tube. After the speech making concluded 4UX entertained for the remainder of the evening at the piano, whilst 4KH endeavoured to convince 4PX that QRM was much worse down at his QTH since the Greater Brisbane System was introduced. However a very fine time was had by all.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Well we open the notes this month with loud cheers, brass bands and a 14 gun salute. Why? Well just turn to the last page of the March issue of this magazine and under the heading of "Correspondence" you will see a very sensible and well thought out letter from a very intelligent Ham. I deny the rumours that I wrote it myself, paid to have it written, or inspired the letter in any way. In fact I have never seen, heard, or contacted VK6WZ, but after reading his letter I made it my business to look for his signal, and believe me after I found it I can only say that I have never heard a signal to equal it. It was readability 5, strength 32 S points over 9, and tone 9XX. His voice was well modulated, charming and cultivated, and altogether I could have listened to him all night (How am I doing?). All jokes aside, a little pat on the back is always acceptable to me (I am just as human as you), although how I am going to live it down still has me worried.

Now, down to business. I am on holidays at the moment and therefore the notes this month are going to be decidedly short, and if you have any "whinges" well sack me! I won't be able to attend the general meeting, so that let's me out, although I can forecast what will happen. The President (with his tongue in his cheek) will give his report on the year's events, then the Treasurer will blind you with science and figures in his best schoolmasterly manner, the Secretary will give all a pep talk and then the meeting will settle down to a very heated and vigorous discussion on the Agenda Paper, during which a lot of good and bad things will be said about the magazine and Federal Executive.

Among the visitors will be a lot of very welcome and charming personalities (providing they join up), and if they don't join up, well then they will be charming and very welcome "so and so's." So much for the meeting.

Wick" Bayly (5WM) just back from VK3 after hitch hiking says that the VK3 gang are an extra good bunch of fellows, but is still trying to remove the smell of the pig truck that gave him a ride for a couple of miles. I believe the pigs took exception to "Wick's" pipe and gave him a wide berth. By the way "Wick," that wasn't rain that fell on you as you dismounted from the back of the truck!

As I said before, I am on holidays and I haven't listened, contacted anybody, or had any rumours blown down my ear, so that's all the city news for this month.

The following is a list of Council Members and their official positions in VK5 for 1949:—President, H. Austin (5AW), Vice-President, F. Wreford (5DW); Treasurer, G. Bowen (5XU); Secretary, E. Barbier (5MD); Asst. Treasurer, R. Austin (5OA); Asst. Secretary, T. Laidler (5TL); Programme Organiser, R. Kelly (5LW); Disposal Manager, G. Ramsay (5GD), Membership Organiser, J. McAllister; Associate Representative, J. Paris; Publicity Officer, W. Parsons (5PS)

Now for the Mt. Gambier notes. 5OJ is in the throes of house furnishing and is beginning to wish that he had taken up cabinet making as a hobby! The a.c. mains are creeping slowly but surely towards his QTH, and I am glad to know that the YF still thinks Ham Radio is OK. 5MS is now using a "T3" type aerial (I don't know whether the name has anything to do with the note). However it seems to be working OK as lots of DX are having their first QSO with 5MS. He has also fitted hand spread to his AR8 and automatic mod. control to his transmitter

5KU has been trying himself out on 20 c.w lately. Has also carried out a few modifications to his No. 4 receiver. 5YD, as anticipated, is now on a.c. and finds that he is getting a much higher voltage to his electrolytic condensers. He claims that one well known make of electrolytic condenser is much better than the "bombs" we used to handle on the 5th November. Has been working on 40 and 20 metres while still building his new gear.

5OH has not had very much time for Ham Radio this month. Has been very busy at the "erg" (no relation to 5KU) factory as acting manager. Has kept the cobwebs from his gear on 20 and 40. He also has a very elaborate system of relays ready to go into action. 5JA resting on his past efforts, I think. He would like me to tell all the v.h.f. experts that he has a crystal controlled transmitter on 6 and 2 metres, a beam on each band and also a good receiver on each band just waiting for some signals. 5TW still concentrating on 10 c.w. using a vertical aerial. Threatens to return to 40 phone soon. 5OJ has completely re-built the receiver incorporating bandswitching from 80 Mc. to 560 Kc.—now on 230 volt d.c. using 1625 in p.a. modulated by pair of 6V6s.

"Dorothy Dix" Parsons is still in business and I received a letter from "Harassed Parent" seeking my advice. He gave his call sign and QTH which makes it all "fair dinkum." "Harrassed Parent" wants to know how he can stop his one year old baby from howling every time Daddy makes a move toward his shack to go on the air Boy, oh boy, is this one right up my "Boolevarde," me, with fourteen children, I'll say. If baby starts to cry, then go and get a small hairbrush and gently stroke the little b———, sorry folks, stroke the little darling's hair very softly backwards and forwards in a soothing motion. Should the sweet little thing not stop within fifteen minutes, then reverse the baby and the hairbrush and go to it. It never fails!

Although I am on holidays and determined to "loaf" and do no more work than I can help, these notes don't seem very representative of VK5 and I am puzzling my brains (or what passes for brains) as to what I can tell you dear readers. I could tell you what "Doc" Barbier (5MD) said when he received a phone ring from an irate Associate Member who wanted to know where his receipt for payment of his membership fee had gone to (after all "Doc" had had the letter 24 hours), but the Editor wouldn't print it anyway. I could tell you the real name of the Amateur with a HQ prefix named Bongo Bongo, living in a lighthouse in the Pacific (His job was to light the kerosene light at sundown, and blow it out at dawn), but I dare not; and I could even tell you why George Ramsay (5GD) only counts up to five when testing, but you wouldn't believe it, and last but not least, I could tell you what Ross Kelly (5LW) said when on his recent fishing trip a crayfish put a strangle hold on a certain part of the anatomy of Ross, but it would burn the paper (and it was not "confound it"). So there you are, I have tried to think of something but it is no good, so the best thing I can say is—for the benefit of those who have just come in, please turn to the back page of March "Amateur Radio" and read, mark and inwardly, digest—YOU BEAUT!!

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The March meeting was held on the 15th (third Tuesday) There were 41 members present, among whom were two newcomers, namely, 6LL and 6KU Congratulations are in order for Frank Taylor, now proud parent of his A.O.C.P., and of course call sign coming up.

Our Secretary 6AG, being in VK5 on business, 6KW took office. We also noticed that 6WH is our President for the coming year. 6RO was issuing receipts for things called subs., March being the commencement of our financial year. All "non-members" please note!

6FC, our Emergency Network Officer, gave the good oil from communications with our local Wireless Branch, and we are now awaiting sanction of the P.M.G. to carry on with the organisation. In conjunction with the emergency net, a field day contest has been proposed for Easter Saturday, 16th April. Great interest is being taken in the field day and it is hoped the weather will stay fine until after that date. By the time you read this, you will have had it, so listen to VK6WI for the results.

A Contest Committee was elected to organise contests in VK6 and to make known all information of contests being organised throughout the world in which we can participate. 6NL, 6FL, 6CM, 6DD, with 6RU representative to Council, form the Committee whose first work is our Easter Field Day. They will also be responsible for awards.

Both 6RU and 6KW voiced opinions relative to the Remembrance Day Contest, and our representative to the Convention, 6GM, is well briefed on the subject.

After the usual rag chew followed an informal discussion on "V.F.Os.—Their Use and Abuse," conducted by most members present. Quite a few words were aired and long pent-up passions exhaled so now we know what the other half think! "Piggy-back" QSOs also came into the subject and with 6WH as M.C. we listened to an instructive and informative debate. 6GM was to have given a lecture—we don't know what is was to have been about, but he never had time to give it anyway.

6DW was a visitor from Bruce Rock and was pleased to make many personal contacts with Perthites he had worked. The meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.

PERSONALITIES

6DJ is developing a new Ham slanguage. We hear "modgies" and "counties" and wonder if Bill is looking for a new flat with all mod. cons! Also from Carlisle comes 6YZ who plays trains on the 7 Mc. track. Did it run over the mike lead Dick? What about 6RS with his VFONBFMOQ? (anagram for 6EL).

6LW has his rig on 7 Mc. again. That's a big jump from 50 Mc. Wal. Hear that Grace and Wally—6WG—still doing their share on 50 Mc. Have you heard that the ZLs and ZS have their beams on you two in Albany? 6MG was the only VK6 on the air during the Perth black-out. He had 7 Mc. band all to himself. 6CD was pleased to contact a ZL on 7 Mc. the other week-end. Should be more of it Don!

6NW, with his "Clapp" oscillator as v.f.o., is scoring lots more contacts. What's the DX C.C. score now Norm? 6WP putting out a signal after all these years. We hear that Bill has 100 watts locked up in the cupboard—what about turning 'em loose Bill? 6WS very active on all bands lately. We know Skipper has a good site for the next field day. 6DX was in town recently after a tour of the S.W. with Mrs. DX. It was about time you collected those QSLs Bill. Did you get one from 6WR?

6AH is coming back to life again. Good show Stan—what about 6MH too? 6AR has things on the air from Hall's Creek. Alan likes the lack of local QRM. 6BC breaks through to some nice DX on 14 Mc. Doesn't happen often enough does it Bert? 6MW has promised us bigger and better signals. It's about time Bill struck his old form. 6WU came down to Albany and Perth for a holiday. As soon as Ray gets home he works a stack of new countries—wonders what he has missed being away.

6HG is on 7 Mc. seeking respite from DX. Peter has a v.f.o. on the way now. 6TP in his new home at Mt. Hawthorn will have his rig on the air just as soon as the lawns are laid, etc., etc.! Notice that 6MB has joined the regulars on 28 Mc. now that the South Americans are breaking through. 6LL permanently on 28 Mc. lately—what about getting that v.f.o. going Clarrie?

6FR is finding a little more time for Ham Radio these days. 6HW had a very large amount of signal on 7 to 7.1 Mc. the other day. Guess I need a new receiver Harry? 6EL scoring some nice DX on 28 Mc. How's the Petermaritsburg situation Ern? What about putting 6CN on the band? Also hear the DX coming back to 6HM, Chas has his DX while DX is away, OK?

6KE hooked an aircraft in flight. That's a good effort Keith, but how? 6OD has been collecting some Europeans on 28 Mc. 6DD also getting his share on that band. 6KU didn't like being top of the list last month so its "bottoms-up" this time Ray!

TASMANIA

The April general meeting was held as usual in the Royal Photographic Society Room (sounds posh doesn't it). Only about 20 members were present, which is a poor show, considering there was so much business in the shape of the Federal Convention Agenda to be discussed. What about it chaps, the Committee desires your thoughts and ideas on these matters too!

Our worthy President 7LJ and 7XA told us of a publicity stunt that had been conducted through the courtesy of commercial station 7HO (I think 7QO had a hand in it), and replayed a wire recording of the doings. Nice work Charlie and Lon—just the stuff to give the troops. Methinks we could do a lot more on these lines and so build up a bigger and better Division.

On Sunday, 10th April, we held a Field Day and it took the usual form of a d.f. hunt. Yours truly was in charge of the transmitter (the only hope I had of getting in first) and was closely followed by Barney Watson, Lon Jensen 7LJ, and then Crosby Walch 7CW.

The transmitter was situated at Howrah, only about eight miles from the starting point, but even at that it was a very creditable effort Barney—25 minutes just about constitutes a record. I think it is about time we introduced a handicap system, possibly weight of man for age (of car) and then I might get a go myself.

Hear that newcomer 7KA is frantically building his rig and in the meantime can be heard occasionally on 7 Mc. using a Type A Mark III. Nice going Ken, I hear the new rig is an example of HOW a rig should be built.

Saw young Brian Hall in camp with the Citizen Army the other day, having a whale of a time with a 128 set. Brian has passed the A.O.C.P. but I don't know what the hold-up is now. How about it Brian—since you were on the air?

Sleepily turning the dial over the 14 Mc. band a few evenings ago, I heard 7SK calling CQ—not CQ DX—I don't know who was more surprised, Max, myself or the OZ7 that came back and gave him 5-7. Nice work Max out of the blue, that one, for a phone contact.

I have very much pleasure in reporting that 7SK won the phone section of the National Field Day Contest. A very creditable performance for a new Ham. Max had been on the air, exactly 30 days prior to the Contest. The rig used was finished only a few hours before starting time, it consisted of two No. 19 genemotors for the power supply, the two 500 volt windings in parallel for the p.a. one 275 volt tapping for the exciter and the other for the modulator. A 12SK7 e.c.o., a 6V6 buffer, a 6V6 doubler, and a 1625 in the final, comprised the transmitter, whilst the modulators were a pair of 807s with the usual speech line-up, plus a dynamic mike.

The whole "caboosh" as Max called it, had an input of 6.5 watts, from two 6 volt batteries, fed into a vee beam, via a random length of twisted power-flex. The vee beam, which was the work of Sid 7SJ, had 120 feet legs, 35 feet high, spread at 80 degrees. The station was located in an apricot orchard at Howden and it is rumored that certain people won't eat apricots again. That's all for now OMs, don't forget to let me have your news and views you would like to see published.

NORTHERN ZONE

The usual monthly meeting of this zone was held at the Wills & Co's. room on Friday, 8th April. There was a large attendance of members and the evening was taken up with a discussion on the agenda paper for the Annual Federal Convention.

Most of our members have been very inactive during the last month, this was possibly due to the poor conditions on the bands. Even the 144 Mc. operators have been very quiet, the exception being 7BQ who has built for himself a very nice crystal controlled rig which is performing admirably with output and quality comparable to Len's 7 Mc. transmissions.

DX has appeared to me to have been very poor, however 7KB informed me that conditions on 14 Mc. have been excellent for the African continent from 0100 hours onwards. Ian has worked many countries on the dark continent that I haven't even considered as possible, even in my wildest dreams.

According to previous years, Central and South American stations should have been breaking through during the evenings of February, March, and April, however it has only been lately that this direction has been audible of an evening at all and during the past week XEs, KP4s, TIs, CMs, PYs, LUs, and VP1, 4, 5 and 9s have been heard at good strength. Best QSOs from here were VP4TB, who worked quite a few VKs on the evening of 11th April on 14010 Kc., and KS4AJ on 14.1 Mc. at 2100 hours.

On phone VK1ADS has been a good contact and was worth the battle to those managing to get through the din. Incidently, Ron informed me that in future he will not answer anyone within 10 Kc. of his frequency.

28 Mc. has been very patchy with the ZLs appearing to get most of the plums. European stations have been fairly good of an evening up till approximately 10 p.m. and towards the end of March the Africans came through one Saturday afternoon and gave 7RK some good phone QSOs. That week-end Ray worked five continents on 28 Mc. phone.

FIFTY AND UP

VICTORIA

50 Mc.—There has been more activity on the 50 Mc. band this month than last, mainly due to interest being shown in 576 Mc. and practically every night stations are to be heard carrying out cross band tests. Some sporadic E openings have also helped to keep the band busy. The first was on the 16th of March at 2120 when VK2BZ was heard by several stations at S9 but no contacts were made. Next, between 2000 and 2100 on the 21st, the VK5s made a surprise appearance. VK3TH in Yinnar worked VK5RT, 5AJ, and 5RV; VK3DI in Leongatha worked VK5RT, 5PR, and 5RV, and several Melbourne stations had contacts with the VK5s. The next night VK4HR was heard for a short time, while on the evening of the 23rd the VK5s again came through, although this time signals were not so good and not many contacts were made. After these openings there was a lull until the 3rd of April when VK3DA heard 2HG working a VK7 at 2100.

3UI at Tatura is on the band every Saturday evening looking for (and contacting) Melbourne stations. 3APF in Shepparton has his new rig going and has worked 3ACL in Red Hill with good signals. 3HZ has his gear going but lacks a suitable antenna at the time of writing.

144 Mc.—There is not much to report this month mainly due to a drop in activity on the band, the reason for which is hard to see since so many chaps have gear for the band. How about getting on a bit more often?

Two new stations have appeared on the band. The first is 3PG, who is using a 6A6 c.o. and doubler with an 8 Mc. crystal, 6L6 tripler, RK34 tripler, and 815 final with 40 watts input. The converter uses a 6AG5 r.f. stage and 6J6 mixer and oscillator. Albert has not had time to put up an outdoor antenna yet, but judging by his signal from an indoor dipole he should be one of the loudest on the band when he does. 3AML is using a 522 transmitter, a modified 522 receiver section, and a dipole 26 feet high. Ray is putting out a good signal and has materials on hand for a stacked beam.

3LH has constructed a 24 element beam (12 driven elements and 12 reflectors) and has been busy tuning it up for best results. He has not had it on the air yet, stations near by are reported to be replacing their aerial coils with ones wound with 8 gauge wire.

3ABA and 3YS have their new 50 and 144 Mc. rig with an 829B final working now. They run 90 watts since they have finished their new modulator using class B 809s. Needless to say they have a signal worthy of such a rig.

3AKE has new receiver called BL4 and it's hot from what Ed tell the boys on 144. He is putting up a new 16 element rotary beam on top of a 70 ft. stick. Other day 3AKE worked 3ALQ, 3ANW, and 3BU with S5 to S9 signals. 3BU worked 3ANW, this is Bill's best DX, a distance of 85 miles. 3VF worked 3AKC and 3KD with good signal reports both ways. 3EQ has started on 144, also 3ZU and 3UT will be on that band soon looking for contacts, also heard that 3AKR is interested in 144 Mc. also.

576 Mc.—This band has been receiving a great deal of attention in Melbourne. Not many contacts are being made as yet, but many chaps are busy building gear for this frequency.

3NW has re-built his gear to a more satisfactory form. He now uses push-pull RL18s with plate and cathode lines for the transmitter and a super-regen receiver using a 2C43 lighthouse tube, which seems to be very sensitive. The gear is built with

portable operation in mind and some interesting tests should be carried out. 3IM has heard 2NW from his home location using an ASB receiver, kindly loaned by Len Allen. Signals were R5 and S4 on phone. The path is a difficult one as 3NW is in a hollow and there are several high hills in between.

3MD has been carrying out tests with a transceiver using a 955 with half wave lines, but has not had a great deal of success to date. 3RR has constructed a convertor using an RL18 mixer with a co-axial grid circuit and a 955 oscillator. The output is on 140 Mc. and is fed into an ASV receiver. Dick has been able to hear 3XA but has not finished adjusting it at the time of writing. 3CR is building a somewhat similar convertor but using a VR92 mixer and a 6C4 oscillator using harmonic injection. (It appears that this gear would be the basis for some good technical articles—Editor.)

3XA has tried a convertor using a 6J6 push-pull mixer and 6J6 oscillator with fairly good results. However the grid line in the mixer was rather short and a new convertor is being built using a GL446A r.f. stage, 955 mixer with co-axial line grid circuit, and push-pull RL18s as the local oscillator. Don hopes to have this set up working for the May v.h.f. group meeting.

3EH is also building a transmitter using RL18s and will probably use a convertor for receiving. 3DA has an ASB receiver of the type using GL446As as r.f. stage, mixer, and oscillator, which he is adjusting for the band.

At the April v.h.f. group meeting John Belcher exhibited a crystal calibrator for 576 Mc. using EF50s multiplying from 4 Mc. crystals and an RL18 output stage. This will be available in the rooms for adjustment of receivers.

To help along the activity on the band and make sure that chaps do not give it away soon after getting their gear going, 3XA has made the very fine gesture of donating a pair of 24Gs as a prize for a 576 Mc. Contest. This will run from 30th June to 31st December inclusive. The score will be worked out by multiplying the number of contacts by total number of miles worked. Only two way contacts on 576 Mc. count, and only one contact per day with anyone station is permissible, unless location has been changed.

QUEENSLAND

Very little activity is reported on 50 Mc. On the 22nd March at 2000 hours 4CU heard 5PQ, whilst 4HR made contact with 5PQ. 4HD also heard 5PQ and 5MP, whilst 4BT worked 5MP. 4HD and 4LN keep regular skeds on 50 Mc., whilst 4CU and 4KK keep their end up. Very little activity is reported from the Brisbane area.

On 144 Mc. the only activity reported is that 4ZU and 4FN of Brisbane are holding Sunday night skeds with 4CH of Ipswich.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

5RP using crystal on 44 Mc. with beam antenna. At present using super regen but has converter under way. 5LF also on the band but his sig does not appear to get down this way. 5GF has nice new crystal rig on the band. Was recently at Kingston trying to work the gang at Mt. Lofty but Max's rhombic just did not do the trick. 5GL still the mainstay of the band with his dual transmissions on 50 and 144 Mc. Wouldn't be surprised to find that it was triple transmission—heard making an attempt to get on 288 Mc.

5QR works cross band. 5JD also works cross band. Claims he can work more stations by this method. Can't copy the mod. oscillators on present set-up. Anyhow mod. oscillators have had their time on 144 Mc. 5NG has man-size beam on the job. Be interesting to see how it works out. 5GY recently heard threatening to try 144 Mc. We can assure you, OM, there will be plenty of interest in the City, with beams lashed down NORTH (or thereabouts).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

In spite of constant watch on the band in Perth by 6LW and 6FC, no DX broke through during March. Nor was the Adelaide Radio Range audible, although Radio Ranges in Queensland and N.S.W. were often heard at various strengths. However, news from 6DW at Bruce Rock indicates that the band did open on 23rd March. At 1845 hours W.A.S.T., he heard two signals, and at 1850 worked 5RT R5 S9 both ways. At 1900 he worked 5QR R5 S9 both ways. At 1913 he worked 5LJ and then 5QR, R5 S9 both ways. Then he heard a VK3 working 6WG in Albany—then 6DW worked 5QR again. On this particular evening 6FC was at work, but 6LW heard nothing in Perth.

Have received no news from 6WG at Albany or 6HM Kalgoorlie. 6GS at Harvey still battling to get a 6 metre signal into Perth. He can read signals from Perth up to S5 on phone. The same remarks apply to 6DW at Bruce Rock.

TASMANIA

Southern Zone.—It would appear that with the cessation of 50 Mc. activity, v.h.f. chewing and doings are at a standstill, at least in the South. However, it is hoped that with the appearance of a couple of signals on 144 Mc., interest in our v.h.f. bands might be stimulated. To this end, both 7AJ and 7DH are working on gear for 144 Mc. 7AJ is on the air with an SCR522 at present, although handicapped by lack of a suitable receiver. It is understood that this position is soon to be remedied.

7BM and 7GC are having lots of fun with wobblers and mailbox receivers on two metres, but even this activity has been brought to a sudden halt by Bill succumbing to an attack of appendicitus. Tough luck Bill OM.

7XA, when last seen, was wrestling with numerous fearsome looking pieces of iron which he swears, when assembled, will make up the rotating mechanism for a ten metre beam. Apparently those nice, shiny, silver plated, little bits and pieces of v.h.f. equipment seen reposing on the 7XA shelf, will have to stay there for the time being.

With chin on one hand and 7193s in the other, both 7LJ and 7BJ are contemplating building simple equipment for 144 Mc. There must be lots of the gang with similar ideas, who are only waiting for someone to start the ball rolling. What about it chaps? A scratch in the junk box, an evening or so work with the soldering iron, a trip up on the roof to erect the dipole, and we have something to listen to in these vast empty megacycles of ours.

Northern Zone.—7BQ is now using a crystal rig on 144 Mc. with an 813 in the final, still wants some more drive. He is also still playing with converters. 7NL has been trading genemotors for 9003s so we may see him on soon. 7TE is not very active, but building an i.f. strip for superhet, whilst 7DB has got his super working at last to his satisfaction. 7MC is out of commission. What about it Ernie?

Got it from a roundabout source that 7AM is building a crystal rig for 144 Mc. Has not been on for some time now, must be five months Les. Peter Frith has been working on the 144 Mc. receiver still, and can now hear aircraft on 122.1 Mc., 85 at 52 miles. Also has added an S meter and planning to add an r.f. stage and b.f.o. for DX. Is also planning to put up a fixed beam on Melbourne in the hope of a break through to VK3 next summer. There is no activity on 50 Mc. now, the entire lot being on 144 Mc.

CORRESPONDENCE

SUPPORT FOR "OLD HOMBRE"

St. Luke's Rectory, Mosman, N.S.W.

Editor "A.R.," Sir,

"Canaille's" reference to "Old Hombre" as intolerant ought not to go by without some protest. Surely to infer that a man is intolerant for championing the cause of correct diction, is equivalent to inferring that the traffic laws are intolerant, where they punish a man for a traffic breach.

The use of such expressions as: "aint, yonse, I've just came in, I've just did it, I done it," and so on, is one of the ugliest things present on any phone band. Furthermore, it is something that can be avoided, with a little care and observation. That this is so, would be obvious, if the person concerned, was to spell the phrase out on the key or to write it down on paper. In the majority of cases the correct grammar would be used.

The use of correct English speech does not depend on a high standard of education, as "Canaille" suggests, but upon observation of the speech and writing habits of the majority, combined with the knowledge provided freely by the public education systems, to all and sundry up to the age of 15 years.

Any Amateur who has sufficient knowledge to gain his licence, yet who is satisfied with sloppy diction, has every cause to be thoroughly ashamed of himself, both on the air and off.

—G. E. CAMERON, VK2GC.

Melbourne.

Editor "A.R.," Sir,

"Canaille" appears to consider lack of erudition a prime virtue, and, coupled with his statement that the King's English was written to be mutilated in Amateur Radio, savours of a mental outlook as archaic as it is difficult to reconcile with his avowed interest in a modern and exacting science.

His assumption that "Old Hombre" is a critical, cantankerous old gentleman without a vestige of humour can hardly be based on the article in question, which (to the erudite) shows a sense of quiet humour, is constructive and well written, and certainly not intolerant. "Canaille" might ponder on the thought that there is a vast difference between being "intolerant" and "being unable to suffer fools gladly."

To say that education is a curse to many, is merely repeating some worn out cliche that has less bearing on realities than a burned out tube. After all, without education, there would be no Amateur Radio, and surely if one can absorb the technicalities of the science, it should not be too difficult for the same brain to absorb the elementary principles of the King's English, and of decent enunciation.

A few hours spent in pursuit of that knowledge would eventually pay the student and Amateur Radio generally far more handsome dividends than a backyard full of beams.

In other words, "Canaille," what about growing up?

—"ARISTO."

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WANTED.—M.F. and H.F. Dials for type AR8 receiver. State condition and price to J. P. Troy, P.B. Kerang.

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FOR SALE.—Perfect SCR522 Xmitter with 144 Mc. crystals and Bendix rotary power supply, the lot brand new, £10 complete. Also A.W.A. Teleradio 3BZ Xmitter 12v. input, with two spare vibrators, complete in case with microphone, tubes and aerial, brand new in performance and looks, built-in automatic send-receive relay, less crystals, a grand portable for phone or c.w. on 40 or 80 metre bands, £28 or best offer, or will exchange. Write to M. J. Vincent, 18 York St., East Ipswich, Qld. All mail answered.

WANTED TO SELL.—R.C.A. American 50 watt output transmitter 80-40-20, plate modulated, monitor, v.f.o., etc., £11; 5-in. English radar unit, £5; SCR522 receiver £5. Wanted to buy, Type A Mark 3 Transceiver. Eric Wardle, 158 High St., Ashburton, E.13, Phone WM 6647.

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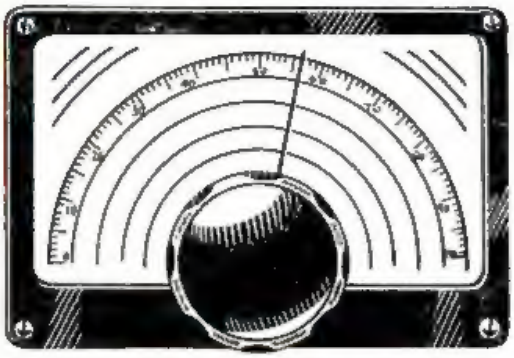

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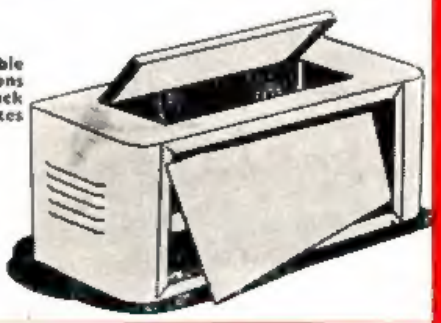

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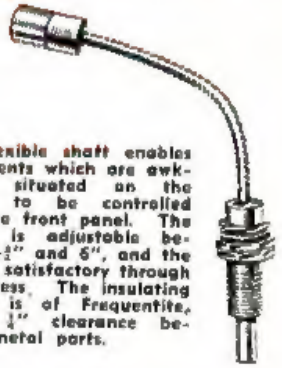

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